

THE
Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXII.—NEW SERIES, No. 862.]

LONDON: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1862.

PRICE } With a Supplement { UNSTAMPED .. 5s.
STAMPED 6s.

CENTRAL UNITED BARTHOLOMEW COMMITTEE OF EVANGELICAL NONCONFORMISTS.

The Committee beg to announce that they have a Series of Eleven Historical Tracts in preparation, the first of which is already published; and that they have now in the press a volume containing all the Public Documents—from the Declaration of Breda to the Act of Toleration—which relate to the Settlement of the Church of England by the Act of Uniformity in 1662. This volume they hope shortly to issue.

The LECTURES now being given at WILLIS'S ROOMS will be published immediately after delivery.

The Committee earnestly solicit Subscriptions towards defraying the expenses connected with the delivery of the Lectures and the publication of the Volume and Tracts.

Drafts and cheques to be crossed to Messrs. Fuller, Banbury, and Co., 77, Lombard-street, E.C. Post-office Orders made payable to Samuel Cox, 10, Broad-street-buildings, to whom all remittances are to be sent.

TREASURER—Sir S. MORTON PETO, Bart., M.P.
SECRETARY—SAMUEL COX.

10, Broad-street-buildings.

PUBLICATIONS ALREADY ISSUED:—

Objects and Plans of the Central United Bartholomew Committee. Price 8s. per 100.

A Summary of the Public Proceedings which issued in the Act of Uniformity. 32 pp. Price 2d. each.

The First Protest; or, The Father of English Nonconformity. Price 3d.

The Farewell Sunday. Price 3d.

Fidelity to Conscience. A Lecture by the Rev. A. M'Laren, B.A. Price 3d.

The Story of the Ejection. A Lecture by the Rev. Dr. M'Crie. Price 3d.

BICENTENARY LECTURE.

THE LAST LECTURE OF THE COURSE announced by the CENTRAL UNITED BARTHOLOMEW COMMITTEE will be delivered at WILLIS'S ROOMS, KING-STREET, ST. JAMES'S, on THURSDAY, May 20th, by the

Rev. ROBERT HALLEY, D.D.,

Subject:—"THE DESIGN AND EFFECTS OF THE ACT OF UNIFORMITY."

Chairman:—W. E. BAXTER, Esq., M.P.

The Chair will be taken at 7 o'clock.

CARDS OF ADMISSION (which will be forwarded on application to the Secretary, at the Office of the Committee, 10, Broad-street-buildings, and may also be had of Messrs. Nisbet and Co., 21, Berners-street; Messrs. Mead and Powell, 73, Cheap-side; Mr. W. Freeman, 102, Fleet-street; Mr. Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster-row; Mr. Gooch, 55, William-street, E.C.; and at the doors on the evening of the Lecture.

Tickets for Reserved Seats, Five Shillings each, may be obtained at the same place.

HENRY VINCENT, ESQ., will deliver an ORATION on WYCLIFFE, at SURREY CHAPEL, NEXT FRIDAY EVENING, at Eight o'clock.

Tickets, 6d.; Reserved, 1s.; of Mr. Purvis, Blackfriars-road; the Chapel-keeper; and at the doors.

A SECOND LECTURE, by Mr. VINCENT, at the same place, on JOHN MILTON, on THURSDAY EVENING, May 15.

ERECTION OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS in PECKHAM to Perpetuate the Name and Memory of the late Rev. W. B. COLLYER, D.D., LL.D.

A PUBLIC MEETING, in reference to this object, will be held in HANOVER CHAPEL, PECKHAM, on TUESDAY Evening next, May 13.

J. A. HARDOCASTLE, Esq., M.P., will take the chair at Seven o'clock.

The friends of the late Dr. Collyer, and others interested in the proposed Memorial, are invited to attend.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION for INDIA.

THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

CHRISTIAN VERNACULAR EDUCATION SOCIETY FOR INDIA

WILL BE HELD AT THE

HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS

On MONDAY, May 12, 1862.

THE RIGHT HON.

THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY

Will take the Chair at Half-past Two o'clock.

The Rev. J. C. Goodhart, M.A.; Rev. J. Leighton, M.A., Church Missionary from the Punjab; Colonel R. S. Simpson, from the Punjab; J. C. Colquhoun, Esq.; and G. H. Davis, Esq., LL.D., will address the meeting.

THE ANNIVERSARY SERMON

WILL BE PREACHED BY THE

REV. CANON MILLER, D.D.,

On THURSDAY, May 8, 1862,

AT

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, COVENT-GARDEN.

Tickets for the Meeting can be had at the Society's Offices, Messrs. SKELEY'S, Fleet-street, Hanover-street, and Islington-green; Messrs. NISBET'S, Berners-street, Oxford-street; Messrs. JACKSON and WALFORD, St. Paul's-churchyard; Messrs. WARD'S, Paternoster-row; and at the Offices of the Church, London, Wesleyan, and Baptist Missionary, and Religious Tract Societies.

SOCIETY'S OFFICES, 5, ROBERT-ST., ADELPHI, W.C.
J. H. TITCOMB, M.A., Hon. Sec.
P. W. LOCKHART GORDON, Sec., late of the H.E.I.C.S.

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING of the Society will be held on TUESDAY EVENING, May 13, 1862, at the POULTRY CHAPEL.

The Chair to be taken by SAMUEL MORLEY, Esq., Treasurer, at half-past Six o'clock precisely.

The Meeting will be addressed by the Rev. Dr. Brown, of Cheltenham; Rev. J. C. Harrison, of Camden-town; Rev. Dr. Wilkes, of Montreal; Rev. A. M'Ansane, of Finsbury Chapel; Rev. W. Cuthbertson, B.A., of Sydney, New South Wales; and E. Ball, Esq., M.P.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

On MONDAY, the 12th of May, at Seven o'clock in the Morning, a PRAYER-MEETING will be held at NEW BROAD-STREET CHAPEL. At Three o'clock a Meeting of DIRECTORS and DELEGATES will be held at the Mission House; and in the Evening, at Seven o'clock, the Rev. EUSTACE R. CONDER, M.A., of Leeds, will preach to the Juvenile Friends of the Society, at the WEIGH HOUSE CHAPEL.

On TUESDAY EVENING, May 13, at Seven o'clock, the Rev. DAVID ROBERTS, of Carnarvon, will preach in the Welsh language at GUILDFORD-STREET WELSH CHAPEL.

On WEDNESDAY, May 14, at half-past Ten in the Morning, a SERMON by the Rev. ANDREW THOMSON, D.D., of Edinburgh, at SURREY CHAPEL; and in the Evening, at Six o'clock, a SERMON by the Rev. J. P. CHOWN, of Bradford, at the TABERNACLE.

On THURSDAY MORNING, May 15, the ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING will be held at EXETER HALL, STRAND. Chair to be taken at Ten o'clock precisely, by the Right Hon. Lord RADSTOCK. And in the Evening, the ANNUAL JUVENILE MEETING will be held at the POULTRY CHAPEL. Chair to be taken at Six o'clock, by G. J. COCKERELL, Esq., Sheriff of London and Middlesex.

FRIDAY, MAY 16.

EVENING.—The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper will be administered to those Members and Friends of the Society who are Stated Communicants, and who produce Tickets from their respective Ministers, at the following places of worship:—

Craven-hill Chapel, Hon. and Rev. B. W. Noel, M.A., to preside.

Stepney Meeting (at Seven o'clock), Rev. John Kennedy, M.A., to preside.

Craven Chapel, Rev. John Graham to preside.

Falcon-square Chapel, Rev. Henry Allon to preside.

Union Chapel, Islington, Rev. John Kelly to preside.

Kingland Chapel (at Seven o'clock), Rev. John Jefferson to preside.

Hanover Chapel, Peckham, Rev. James Rowland to preside.

Trevor Chapel, Brompton, Rev. James G. Miall to preside.

Greenwich-road Chapel (at Seven o'clock), Rev. Patrick Thomson to preside.

Ecceleston Chapel (at Seven o'clock), Rev. Arthur Tidman, D.D., to preside.

Park Chapel, Camden Town, Rev. Joshua C. Harrison to preside.

New Tabernacle, Rev. R. Ferguson, LL.D., to preside.

Services, with the foregoing exceptions, to commence at Half-past Six o'clock.

LORD'S-DAY, MAY 18.

Sermons will be preached, and Collections made, at various Places of Worship, in London and its Vicinity: see Missionary Chronicle.

Admission to Exeter Hall will be by Tickets, which can be obtained at the Mission House, Blomfield-street.

A Collection in aid of the Funds of the Society will be made in connexion with each Service.

ARTHUR TIDMAN, } Secretaries.
EBENEZER PROUT, }

Mission House, Blomfield-street, Finsbury,
May 6, 1862.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES of the SYSTEMATIC BENEFICENCE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.

Right Hon. the Earl of CARLISLE, K.G., &c., &c.

SERMONS on SUNDAY MORNING, May 11, at Eleven o'clock

In St. Saviour's Church (the Rev. W. Niven's), Chelsea, by Rev. G. T. Fox, M.A., Durham.

In Crown Court, Covent-garden, by the Rev. John Cumming, D.D.

In Weigh House Chapel, London-bridge, by Rev. T. Binney.

In Wesleyan Chapel, Baywater, by Rev. W. Arthur, M.A.

In Baptist Chapel, Regent's-park, by Rev. W. Landels.

Also on same EVENING, at half-past Six o'clock.

In Scotch Church, Regent-square, by Rev. James Hamilton, D.D.

In Methodist New Connexion Chapel, Lorimore-street, by Rev. W. Cooke, D.D.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE on Systematic Beneficence at FREEMASONS' HALL, on MONDAY, at Eleven o'clock a.m.

SAMUEL GURNEY, Esq., M.P., has kindly consented to preside.

A SERMON on WEEKLY OFFERINGS to CHRIST WH (D.V.)

will be preached in GREAT QUEEN-STREET CHAPEL, LINCOLN'S-INN FIELDS, by the Rev. ROBT. G. CATHER, LL.D., M.R.I.A., on TUESDAY AFTERNOON, at Three o'clock.

THE PUBLIC MEETING in EXETER HALL, on TUESDAY EVENING, May 13, WILBRAHAM TAYLOR, Esq., will take the Chair at Seven o'clock precisely.

Addresses will be delivered by Gentlemen of all Denominations at the meetings.

Collections will be made after the Conference, the Sermon on Tuesday, and the Public Meeting.

Tickets may be obtained after Sunday, May 4, at the Office, 7, Adam-street, Strand; or at the Religious Tract Society; and Messrs. Nisbet and Co., Berners-street; Messrs. Hatchard, Piccadilly; Sealeys, Fleet-street; Transier, Ave Maria-lane; Ward and Co., Paternoster-row; Rev. J. Mason, Paternoster-row; and J. Stevenson, Paternoster-row.

ANNIVERSARY of the NATIONAL TEMPERANCE LEAGUE, May, 1862.

SERMONS.

The Rev. NEWMAN HALL, LL.B., of Surrey Chapel, will preach in REGENT-SQUARE CHAPEL (Rev. Dr. Hamilton's), on Sunday Morning, 18th May, at Eleven o'clock.

The Rev. ROBERT MAGUIRE, M.A., Incumbent of Clerkenwell, will preach in ALL SOULS' CHURCH, Langham-place, on Sunday Evening, 18th May, at Seven o'clock.

PUBLIC MEETING.

THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING of the LEAGUE will be held in EXETER HALL, on Tuesday Evening, 20th May.

EDWARD BAINES, Esq., M.P., will preside; and the meeting will be addressed by the

Rev. H. J. ELLISON, M.A., Vicar of Windsor;

JAMES MILLER, Esq., F.R.S.E., F.R.C.S.E., Surgeon in Ordinary to the Queen, Professor of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, &c.;

Major the Hon. H. L. POWYS KECK, of Stoughton Grange;

Lieutenant-Colonel WAKEFIELD, Oxford;

JOSEPH LIVERST, Esq., Preston, and the

Rev. JOHN GUTHRIE, M.A., Deputation from the Scottish Temperance League.

Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock.

Admission free. Tickets for Reserved Seats, 1s., may be obtained at the office of the League, 337, Strand.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

A CONFERENCE of MINISTERS of RELIGION, of all Denominations, who practice Abstinence from Intoxicating Liquors, will be held in the LONDON COFFEE HOUSE, 25 Ludgate-hill, on Thursday, 22nd May.

Abstaining ministers who have not received a special invitation to the Conference, are requested to communicate their names and addresses to Mr. Robert Rae, Secretary to the National Temperance League, 337, Strand, London.

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the Evening, in EXETER HALL, when a number of Ministers will communicate their personal and professional experience of Total Abstinence, and state the opinion which experience has led them to form of the value of the Temperance Movement as a means of social, moral, and religious advancement.

The Hon. and Rev. LAMONT FORBES, M.A., Vicar of Exton, and Honorary Canon of Peterborough, will preside at the Public Meeting, and the following ministers have agreed to take part in the proceedings:—

Rev. W. ACWORTH, M.A., Vicar of Plumstead.

Rev. R. MAGUIRE, M.A., Incumbent of Clerkenwell.

Rev. STENTON EARDLEY, M.A., Incumbent of Immanuel Church, Streatham.

Rev. WILLIAM KEANE, Rector of Whiteby.

Rev. H. F. BREAT, B.A., Incumbent of St. Matthias, Birmingham.

Rev. F. R. KITE, M.A., Incumbent of St. John's, Kenilworth.

Rev. J. S. MACKENZIE, D.D., Presbyterian Minister, Birmingham.

Rev. P. B. STEPHENSON, B.A., Wesleyan Minister, Norwich.

Rev. OWEN THOMAS, Welsh Calvinistic Methodist, Jewin-street, London.

Rev. W. ROAF, of St. Paul's Congregational Chapel, Wigan.

Rev. A. C. THOMAS, of Cross-street Baptist Chapel, Islington.

Rev. J. H. WILSON, Secretary to the Congregational Home Missionary Society.

Chair to be taken at Seven o'clock.

Admission free. Tickets for Reserved Seats, 1s., may be obtained at the office of the League, 337, Strand.

SOIREE.

A GRAND CONVERSAZIONE will be held in the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS, on Saturday Evening, 24th May, to afford an opportunity for pleasant social intercourse to the many strangers interested in the Temperance Movement who will then be in London.

Paintings, Statuary, Objects of Curiosity and of Scientific Interest, Plants and Flowers, will be displayed in the magnificent rooms.

First-rate Music will be provided, and in the course of the evening one or two special addresses will be delivered.

Refreshments will be served from Seven o'clock.

Cards of Admission, Single, 2s. 6d.; Double, 5s. 6d.; may be obtained at the office of the League, 337, Strand.

THE IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY and CONGREGATIONAL HOME MISSION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the IRISH EVANGELICAL SOCIETY and IRISH CONGREGATIONAL HOME MISSION will be held on MONDAY EVENING, May 13, 1862, in the Poultry Chapel.

The Chair to be taken by EUSEBIUS SMITH, Esq., at half past Six o'clock p.m.

The Meeting will be addressed by Rev. George Smith, of Poplar; Samuel Morley, Esq.; Charles Jupp, Esq., of Mere; Rev. J. P. Paton, M.A., of Sheffield; Rev. H. Ollard, F.R.S.A., of Derby; Rev. J. De Kewer Williams, and other Ministers and Gentlemen.

Also on same EVENING, at half-past Six o'clock.

In Scotch Church, Regent-square, by Rev. James Hamilton, D.D.

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THE REV. A. RALEIGH, A.M., of Canonbury, will PREACH the ANNIVERSARY SERMON of the RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY at SURREY CHAPEL, on THURSDAY EVENING, May 8. Service to commence at Seven o'clock.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION of ENGLAND and WALES.

The ANNUAL MEETING of the UNION will be held in the WEIGH-HOUSE CHAPEL, on TUESDAY, May 12, at half-past Nine o'clock; and by Adjournment, in the same place, on FRIDAY, at Ten o'clock. The meeting on Tuesday will be for the transaction of the business of the Union, and that on Friday for Devotion, and Conversation on topics of present interest to the Denomination. The Rev. SAMUEL MARTIN, of Westminster, will preside on each occasion. The PRELIMINARY MEETING of the Members of the Union, including Officers of the County Associations, to prepare the business of the Session, will be held in the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, on MONDAY AFTERNOON, at Five o'clock, the Rev. JAMES G. MIAL, the retiring Chairman, in the Chair.

GEORGE SMITH, } Secretaries.
ROBERT ASHTON, }

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The ANNUAL PUBLIC BREAKFAST will be held at the SOCIETY'S INSTITUTION, 165, ALDERSGATE-ST., CITY, on TUESDAY MORNING, May 13, 1862, at Six o'clock.

Sir S. MORTON PETO, Bart., M.P., will preside, And Addresses will be delivered by Rev. A. W. Thorold, M.A., Rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields; Rev. Robert Buchanan, D.D., Principal of the Free Church College, Glasgow; Rev. John Graham, Craven Chapel; Rev. James D. Brocklehurst, Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Poplar. Tickets, 2s. each, may be obtained at Cotes' Library, 139, Cheapside; Book Society, 19, Paternoster-row; Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster-row; Williams and Lloyd, 29, Moorgate-street; Tweedie's, 337, Strand; the Branch Associations; and at the Offices of the Association, 165, Aldersgate-street, City.

TO CHRISTIAN MEN VISITING LONDON DURING THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The Committee of the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION will be willing to issue Cards of Admission to their Reading-rooms and Library to Christian men furnished with an introduction to the Secretary from a provincial minister or principal of a commercial house. The rooms are supplied with daily, denominational, provincial, and foreign newspapers, reviews, and magazines. Tea, coffee, &c., supplied in the evening. Monthly Cards, 2s. 6d.

Young men generally are cordially invited to the Bible-classes held on Saturday afternoons at 5.15, on which occasions tea is provided for strangers free of charge.

W. EDWYN SHIPTON, Secretary.

Offices and Library, 165, Aldersgate-street, near the General Post-office, E.C.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, 165, Aldersgate-street, London, E.C.

This Association seeks the spiritual and mental improvement of commercial young men. The means employed are the influence of the members in the sphere of their daily calling, Bible-classes, Devotional Meetings, Lectures, a Library and Reading-room, Educational Classes, &c.

Ministers, heads of families, and principals of commercial houses are respectfully invited to send young men, and young men themselves who need a friend are cordially invited to come to the Secretary of the Association, that they may receive the sympathy and advice which the difficulties and dangers of London life render so necessary, and may be introduced to the care of the branches of the Association near which they reside. Prospectuses may be obtained on application.

W. EDWYN SHIPTON, Secretary.

ELECTION.—CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, LEWISHAM.

The ANNUAL MEETING was held in the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, BLOMFIELD-STREET, FINSBURY, on TUESDAY, April 29.

R. J. KITCHENER, Esq., in the Chair.

A highly gratifying report was presented; and after the usual routine business the Election took place, and the number of Votes polled for the several Candidates were as follows:

1. Giles, J. O.	4,274	9. Roberts, K.	289
2. Turner, A.	1,695	10. Farnsworth, E.	249
3. Evans, T. R.	1,622	11. Nicholson, J. S.	246
4. Lewis, J.	1,525	12. Morrison, J. K.	211
5. Newton, H. J.	1,477	13. Tozer, T. M.	145
6. Rees, H. M.	1,257	14. Dunn, G. B.	119
7. Soullard, H.	921	15. Richards, J. W.	88
8. Bell, F. W.	090	16. Williams, C. R.	18

The first Six were declared duly elected.

GEORGE ROSE, Secretary.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL, HAVERSTOCK-HILL, NEAR HAMPSTEAD.

PATRON—Her Majesty the QUEEN.

Instituted May 10, 1758, for Children of both Sexes, and from any Part of the Kingdom.

The 104th ANNUAL GENERAL COURT of the GOVERNORS was held at the LONDON TAVERN, on FRIDAY, April 25, for the Election of Thirty from a list of 100 Candidates, and for other business.

THOS. M. COOMBS, Esq., V.P. and Treasurer, in the Chair. At the close of the Ballot the following were declared to be successful:—

1. Boag, Margt. Isabella 439	16. Clark, Walter George 373
2. Stalley, Mary Ann . . . 350	17. Liddetter, C. Pocock . . 394
3. Taylor, Jessie Hannah 342	18. Hall, Henry William . . 358
4. Hunt, Georgiana . . . 293	19. Martin, H. Hope D. . . 355
5. Withecombe, Ann . . . 294	20. Smith, Henry Joseph 354
6. Martin, Fanny Palmer 279	21. Gillies, Wm. Richard 340
7. Hill, Mary Ann . . . 248	22. Muzzell, Frederick . . 338
8. Cooper, Mary Ann E. 229	23. Byrt, Wm. Richard . . 333
9. Pearson, Ann Adelaide 208	24. Chappell, C. Arthur . . 331
10. Rogers, Alice . . . 205	25. Fryer, William . . . 328
11. Robinson, William . . 459	26. Page, Francis George . 319
12. Harwood, James . . . 403	27. Carter, James Shefford 309
13. Nicholls, R. H. D. W. 391	28. Wood, Henry Samuel . . 309
14. Pye, William . . . 387	29. Howard, James . . . 308
15. Heywood, Edmund . . 384	30. Wilson, Charles . . . 299

Resolved unanimously: That the best thanks of this Court be presented to Thomas M. Coombs, Esq., for presiding this day, and to the scrutineers for their care in taking the ballot.

JOSEPH SOUL, Secretary.

Office, 32, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

Thirty Vacancies are declared for the Election in October. Forms to fill up may be obtained of the Secretary. The School buildings will now accommodate 400 orphans. Sixty will be admitted this year, Thirty at each Election. When the state of the funds will permit, a larger number will be annually elected.

Contributions are very earnestly solicited, and will be thankfully received. Life Subscribers, 5s. 5s.; Annual, 10s. 6d. Life Governor, 10s. 10s.; Annual, 1s. 1s., and upwards, with votes increasing in proportion to the amount subscribed.

FAMILY MOURNING.

PETER ROBINSON'S

FAMILY AND GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE

Is now (since its extensive alterations) the LARGEST in LONDON. Families will effect a great saving by forwarding their orders to THIS ESTABLISHMENT, where the BEST MOURNING may be purchased at the most reasonable prices, and the wear of the article is guaranteed.

DRESSES, MANTLES, BONNETS, and MOURNING COSTUME of every description, are kept ready-made, and can be forwarded, in town or country, immediately on receipt of order.

DRESS-MAKING TO ANY EXTENT ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

PETER ROBINSON'S GENERAL MOURNING WAREHOUSE,

103 to 108, OXFORD-STREET, W.

BRITISH and FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

The FIFTY-SEVENTH GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held on MONDAY, May 12, 1862, in the LARGE SCHOOLROOM, BOROUGH-ROAD.

The Chair will be taken by the Right Hon. the Earl RUSSELL, at Twelve o'clock.

The ANNUAL EXAMINATION of the BOYS' MODEL SCHOOL will take place on the same day, commencing at Ten o'clock. Earl RUSSELL will preside.

Tickets may be obtained by application at the Society's House, Borough-road.

EDWARD D. J. WILKS, Secretary.

THE WORKING CLASSES' NATIONAL ALBERT MEMORIAL FUND.

For the Erection of Model Lodging-houses, with Halls for Educational and Institutional Purposes, Free Libraries, &c., in memory of his late Royal Highness the PRINCE CONSORT.

TREASURER.

Sir John Villiers Shelley, Bart., M.P.

PATRONS.

The Hon. F. H. F. Berkeley, M.P. G. Potts, Esq., M.P.
M.P. R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P.
W. Ewart, Esq., M.P. G. H. Whalley, Esq., M.P.

BANKERS.

Bank of London, Charing-cross Branch.

COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Mr. W. Smallman, Builder, 18, Lower Eaton-street, Pimlico, S.W.
Mr. W. Armfield, Dyer, Belgrave-street South, Pimlico, S.W.
Mr. J. Bowmer, Cabinetmaker, 20, Union-row, New Kent-road, S.E.
Mr. T. Cook, 23, Ovington-square, Brompton, S.W., and 63, Granby-street, Leicester.
Mr. J. Kent, Carver and Gilder, 9, Britannia-place, Wandsworth, Surrey.
Mr. A. Morison, Baker, 5, Silver-street, Golden-square, W.
Mr. W. Parnell, Baker, 8, George-street, Camberwell-green, S.
Mr. J. Rose, Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Journeymen Bakers.
Mr. T. Wall, 8, Brewer-street North, St. John-street-road, E.C.
Mr. J. Y. Wallis, Bookbinder, 13, Edith-street, Great Cambridge-street, N.E.

(With power to add to their number.)

HON. SEC.

Mr. Carter, 12, Pall-mall East, S.W.

The Committee solicit the aid of all classes of the community in carrying out the objects of the fund, and all persons desirous of aiding the same are requested to communicate with the honorary secretary.

Subscriptions can be paid at the Charing-cross Branch of the Bank of London.

A List of Subscriptions will be published shortly.

THE VOTE BY BALLOT.

The Motion for leave to bring in a Bill to establish the Vote by Ballot will, during the present month, be made in the House of Commons. The Friends of the Ballot in the constituencies are earnestly solicited at once to take steps to secure the attendance of members favourable to the Ballot.

SUBSCRIPTIONS in aid of the Ballot Society may be forwarded to the Bankers, Messrs. Prescott, Grote, and Co., Threadneedle-street, London, E.C.; or to the undersigned, at the Office, 5, Guildhall Chambers, Basinghall-street, London, E.C.

J. F. BONTEMPS, Honorary Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED.

	£	s.	d.
Wm. Hargreaves	20	0	0
S. Morley	10	10	0
Wm. Leaf	10	10	0
Joseph Causton	10	10	0
T. B. Potter	10	0	0
Western Wood, M.P.	5	5	0
George Thomas	5	5	0
James Ross	5	0	0
Fortescue Harrison	5	5	0
W. Man, jun.	5	0	0
Edward Alexander, jun.	3	0	0
W. J. Etches	5	0	0
Sir C. E. Douglas, M.P.	3	0	0
Andrew Lusk	3	3	0
Edmund Potter, M.P.	3	3	0
Jeremiah Colman	3	3	0
Messrs. Sterry and Sterry	2	2	0
C. H. Elit	2	2	0
James Kershaw, M.P.	2	0	0
Sir J. Watts	1	1	0
John Bright, M.P.	1	1	0
W. Tothill	2	0	0
Handel Cosham	5	3	0
H. O. Wills	1	0	0
C. and G. Somerton	1	1	0
—Thomas and Brother	1	0	0
J. H. Palmer, Q.C.	1	1	0
Thomas Bazley, M.P.	3	3	0
Wm. Edwards	1	1	0
Robert Webb	2	0	0
E. R. Brown	1	0	0

And sundry smaller sums.

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TESTIMONIAL FUND for ISAAC TAYLOR, Esq., Author of "Natural History of Enthusiasm," "The Physical Theory of Another Life," "The Restoration of Belief," &c.

It has been proposed to raise a Fund in acknowledgment of Mr. Taylor's eminent services to Literature. During a long life of meditative retirement, he has devoted himself to the service of his generation; and few have spoken so eloquently, and in so catholic a spirit in defence of the Truth.

Mr. Taylor has at no time received from his Works any remuneration at all commensurate with the place they have held as incitements and guides of thought. He is now in his seventy-fifth year; and some friends, who are desirous that serious losses which he has sustained should not occasion him anxiety, have proposed the formation of this Fund, to be invested for the benefit of himself and family.

The following noblemen and gentlemen have formed themselves into a Committee for this purpose:—

The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.	Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P.
Lord Ebury.	Rev. Norman Macleod, Glasgow.
Lord Lindsay.	The Rev. Professor Mansel, Oxford.
The Rev. Lord Wriothley Russell.	The Very Rev. Dean Milman, A. Field, Esq., Manchester.
Rev. W. Arthur.	Rev. J. J. S. Perowne, King's College.
George F. Barbour, Esq., Edinburgh.	Rev. James Stratten.
Sir D. Brewster, Edinburgh.	The Ven. Archdeacon Utterton.
Professor Fraser, Edinburgh.	The Rev. Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge.
Rev. Dr. Hanna, Edinburgh.	
J. Gurney Hoare, Esq., Cambridge.	
The Rev. Professor Jeremie, Cambridge.	

J. Gurney Hoare, Esq., Treasurer, (Messrs. Barnett and Hoare), 62, Lombard-street.

Professor FRAZER,

J. J. S. PEROWNE, M.A., } Hon. Secs.

Contributions will be received by Messrs. Bell and Daldy, 186, Fleet-street, and by Messrs. Deighton, Bell, and Co., and Messrs. Macmillan, Cambridge.

THOMAS COOPER'S ENGAGEMENTS

for the FIRST HALF of 1862 are all in SCOTLAND. Letters from English friends (who have not received Printed Lists) will be forwarded to him if addressed, "Thomas Cooper, Lecturer on Christianity, care of Mr. G. C. Stewart, 10, South Bridge-street, Edinburgh."

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Address, stating antecedents and qualifications, to B. A., 2, Gloster-villas, Talbot-road, Kentish-town, N.

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The Advertiser having, for many years, carried on a small but well established Wholesale Business, in London, capable of being greatly extended, would be glad to treat with any person possessing Capital, and desirous of using it with safety and to greater advantage than the ordinary channels of investment afford. None but Principals need apply.

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The number of Beds having been recently increased to TWO HUNDRED and TEN, in consequence of the unprecedented pressure for admission, the Committee trust that the wonted liberality of the public will enable them to meet the additional expenses.

PHILIP ROSE, Hon. Sec.
HENRY DOBBIN, Sec.

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE.

We were not mistaken—we felt satisfied we should not be—in our anticipations of the power and spirit of the Sixth Triennial Conference of the friends of the Liberation Society. Its deliberations are over—its business is transacted—and once again it has devolved upon the Council and the Executive Committee the guidance of the movement for a period of three years.

We know not what may be the impression produced upon the antagonists of the society by the moral bearing of this representative assembly. One thing, we imagine, will have been made tolerably clear to them: that they are not likely to rail away the purpose upon which these men and their constituents have set their hearts. They have not received back in kind that which they have so liberally given—personal abuse. But they have received somewhat which, perhaps, will prove far more distasteful to them, namely, a dignified exposition of the essential weakness of the system which they uphold, and ample proofs of the religious earnestness of the men who seek to put an end to it. They will learn from the proceedings of the Conference, so calm yet so deeply serious, so resolute yet so free from passion, so plain-spoken yet so cautious against inflicting unnecessary wounds, that the present controversy is one in which loose and unscrupulous guerilla warfare is wholly inadequate to stay the progress of the growing power that threatens the political relations of their Church; that there are traditional principles and objects on the one side as well as on the other; that the fire which they think to blow out with the breath of their scorn was kindled long ago, and has been slowly and surely, even if fitfully, fed by the thoughts and the efforts of a faithful minority through several successive generations; that if it has now burst out into a flame which lays hold of larger breadths of society in spite of the most strenuous exertions to stifle it, the friends of the Church owe it chiefly to themselves; that, in short, by refusing the smallest concession to justice, by banding together the most heterogeneous materials in resistance of all change, by calling in the aid of political party to stamp out all ecclesiastical reform, by putting aside the most moderate demands with a high hand and in a tone of arrogant assumption, they have brought upon their politico-religious Establishment a moral pressure, the force of which is augmenting every year, and the irresistible power of which their monopoly cannot permanently withstand.

We commend to the friends of the political Church a thoughtful perusal of the comprehensive, eloquent, and weighty report presented to the conference by the Executive Committee. They will gather from it a fair estimate of the real worth of their victory achieved in June last. They have already had sufficient reason to conclude that it was for themselves a barren triumph, for, although left to mark out their own future, they have been utterly at a loss to know

what they should do with it. Meanwhile, however, they from whose hands they succeeded by desperate efforts in wresting the Parliamentary position they had held for several years, are by no means similarly perplexed as to the uses to which they shall turn their defeat. They found it difficult to obtain credence when they averred that they laid no great stress upon the abolition of Church-rates. They might, indeed, have been embarrassed by the final and satisfactory settlement of that question a year or two ago. They might have found great practical difficulty, if that question had been quietly disposed of, in fixing attention upon, and exciting interest in, the much larger one yet remaining to be adjusted. They have been spared this crucial test of their sagacity and constancy. They know now what to be about. They see their way clearly mapped out before them. They enter upon it with bounding alacrity. Do they exhibit any signs of men whose main object has been effectually barred all approach? Do they abandon themselves to unavailing regrets? Have they lost any of their confidence in each other, in the righteousness of their cause, in their eventual realisation of it? The report of the Executive Committee shows that, driven from the minor and outlying question in dispute, they have fallen back upon the broader principle upon which it rests, and that repulsed by a retroactive House of Commons they have boldly turned from it to the country. In place of dismay and despondency they exhibit greater courage and grander hopes, and so far from disbanding under the influence of a temporary discomfiture they gladly recruit and equip themselves for a much more lofty, and, as they well know, a much more arduous enterprise.

We further trust that the intelligent laity of the political Church will studiously read the papers read to the Conference by the Rev. G. Conder, of Leeds, and the Rev. H. Parkinson, of Rochdale. Both papers may serve to convince them that the existing feeling against, not the Church, but her political position, not Churchmen, but their unwarrantable and unscriptural ascendancy, is the result of slow growth, not of hasty manufacture. The designs of the Liberation Society have been held up to the alarm of British Christians, as though they were a yesterday's plot, hidden for a time for very shame, but happily dragged to the light of day by Episcopal vigilance and astuteness. The doctrines of the society have been denounced as unheard-of atrocities, the inventions of political faction rather than the product of serious religious thought. It may surprise not a few of these gentlemen to discover that these doctrines have an historical existence, and that these designs are not nearly so modern as those opposed to them have assiduously represented. Anti-State-Churchism, in fact, as a living and occasionally active principle, is far older than Free Trade, runs back to a period long anterior to any movement for Parliamentary Reform. True, it has expanded very gradually, and for long intervals might be thought to have disappeared altogether. But nothing allied with truth and right wholly dies. Suppressed by one generation, it starts up to confront another. Take this fact, and take with it that other no less significant one, that the main doctrine of the Liberation Society is rapidly diffusing itself through continental Europe, and gaining possession of the guiding minds of the age, and it will be seen how small is the likelihood that it can be whiffled away by mere clerical insolence, or that it can long be resisted even by honest but mistaken attachment. The contest upon which we are entering is infinitely graver and more important than can be swayed, for more than a moment, by unhalloved weapons. They altogether misapprehend its nature who rush into it with their squirts of foul water, and their scrips filled with jagged stones. Something better than this must be attempted if the Church of England is to be really defended. She must have Scripture, reason, truthfulness, candour, religious sobriety,

and a spirit of understanding, engaged in making good her position, or not all the assumptions of her clergy, nor all her political prestige, nor all her traditional supremacy, nor her great wealth, will save her against being overwhelmed by the tide of living thought and spiritual activity which will be directed against her.

But if there be one characteristic of the now concluded Conference which more than any other should awaken misgivings in the minds of the adherents, whether clerical or lay, of political religionism, it is the absence from it of all anticipation that the battle will be an easy one, and the victory near at hand. Few of the men who assembled in Freemasons' Hall on Tuesday and yesterday can hope to derive anything from their agitation of this question but social obloquy, bitter reproaches, diminution of present influence, and, to some extent, worldly loss. None of them, probably, look forward with any confidence to the legislative realisation of their object in their own day. They count upon a deadly struggle the severity of which will far transcend anything they have yet experienced. They know that the end of it is so remote as to make it exceedingly problematical whether they shall live to see it. But do they quail? Not a whit. When the Rev. Howard Hinton stood up, and gave expression to his unabating attachment to the cause, with a feeling of solemnity thrilling as if he were there and then giving his last testimony, he did but shadow forth something of the religious earnestness which, less intensely, perhaps, but not less really, glowed in the bosom of every one present. The men who were gathered together in that assembly, went thither to discharge a duty to conscience—to perform, according to their convictions, a high service to their Divine Lord. Such men, animated by such intents, cannot be sneered down. Their energy, their steadfastness, their devotedness, their moral and spiritual allegiance, may be relied upon in all the changes through which this great question is destined to pass. With them any one may be proud to act—and, as we bid them adieu for awhile, we rejoice to think that the movement is committed to such suitable hands, and make bold to ask the friends of State-Churchism whether, with all their seeming advantages, they imagine the controversy is one which they can much longer affect to despise.

TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

FIRST DAY'S SITTING.

The Triennial Conference of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, was held at Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday and yesterday. Before the commencement of the more public proceedings on Tuesday, a considerable number of ministers and gentlemen, members of the Conference, attended a meeting for prayer, presided over by the Rev. J. Pillans, of Camberwell. At eleven o'clock about 350 delegates assembled from 150 towns, including the following:—Alloa, Ashton-under-Lyne, Accrington, Birmingham, Birkenhead, Bristol, Bradford, Blackburn, Boston, Cambridge, Canterbury, Chelmsford, Derby, Dundee, Exeter, Edinburgh, Folkestone, Huddersfield, Hanley, Halifax, Hartlepool, Ipswich, Kettering, Liverpool, Leicester, Leeds, Lancaster, Maidstone, Manchester, Macclesfield, Newcastle, Norwich, Northampton, Oldham, Plymouth, Paisley, Perth, Rochester, Reading, Sheffield, St. Helen's, Southampton, Sunderland, Tonbridge, Wakefield, Wolverhampton, besides delegates from various parts of the metropolis.

The following are the names of some of the gentlemen who attended the sittings of the Conference:—C. Gilpin, Esq., M.P., G. Hadfield, Esq., M.P., E. Miall, Esq., W. Edwards, Esq., Hugh Mason, Esq. (of Ashton-under-Lyne), C.

Curling, Esq., H. O. Wills, Esq. (of Bristol), J. Cripps, Esq. (of Leicester), H. R. Ellington, Esq., E. Grimwade, Esq., Mayor of Ipswich, J. T. Burdon, Esq., E. C. Whitehurst, Esq., Dr. C. J. Foster, W. Jull, Esq., J. C. Williams, Esq., R. Rumney, Esq., C. Robertson, Esq. (of Liverpool), H. Twelve-trees, Esq., E. B. Underhill, Esq., N. Buckley, Esq. (of Ashton); the Revs. J. H. Hinton, M.A., J. Pillans, Professor Newth, W. Parkinson, E. White, W. Walters, G. W. Ounder, R. W. Betts, S. G. Green, J. Mursell, Dr. Thomas, J. K. Jones, J. Sugden, H. T. Robjohns, F. Trestrail, W. Gould, R. Macbeth, &c. A letter was also read from Mr. E. Baines, M.P., regretting his absence on account of his Parliamentary duties.

Mr. E. S. ROBINSON, of Bristol, was voted to the chair. He said he had been suddenly and unexpectedly called upon to occupy that position, but the meeting might rest assured that he fully sympathised with the objects which the Conference had in view. He had attended the meetings of the Liberation Society regularly for eighteen years, and during that time he had watched with great interest and pleasure the growth of its principles. The political question advocated by the society was fast becoming the great question of the day. The society had gone through two stages—the stage of obscurity and the stage of contempt, and it had now arrived at the stage of abuse. Not only was the society abused in its corporate capacity, but its most sincere, tolerant, and prominent members were being individually maligned. But he looked forward with confidence to the time when their principles and objects should be brought to the test of dispassionate and logical discussion. He rejoiced that the present year was to be marked by the determination on the part of large bodies of gentlemen to do homage to fidelity of conscience. He would at the same time say with all sincerity that there was such a thing as fidelity to conscience in other bodies besides Dissenters, and that they must be prepared, and he believed were prepared, to grant to others the same freedom of conscience which they demanded for themselves.

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARIES.

On the motion of Mr. H. O. WILLS, of Bristol, seconded by Mr. S. WILLIAMS, of Aberdare, the following gentlemen were appointed secretaries to the Conference:—the Rev. J. Mursell, of Kettering, Mr. Templeton, and Mr. C. Williams.

The following gentlemen were also appointed a committee to make arrangements for conducting the business of the Conference:—Mr. Thomas Bantock, Wolverhampton; Mr. J. Cripps, Leicester; Mr. John Candlish, Sunderland; Mr. J. Copeman, Norwich; Mr. George Dowman, Southampton; Rev. J. Davies, Aberaman; Mr. E. Grimwade, Ipswich; Mr. E. S. Robinson, Bristol; Mr. Joseph Spencer, Manchester; Mr. Hanson, Bradford; Mr. T. Grundy, Harborough; Mr. William Edwards, London; Mr. H. R. Ellington, London; and Dr. Foster, London, with the secretaries to the conference.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, the secretary, read the report of the Executive Committee, of which the following is an abstract:—

The report, after referring to the successes which had followed the Parliamentary action of the society in the three years previous to the last conference, expressed the opinion that it could not reasonably be expected that another triennial period would yield results equally decisive.

ASPECT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

There had just been elected a Parliament, liberal, indeed, in its professions, but actually hostile to reform, both in Church and State. The supporters of Church Establishments, alarmed at the strength of the tide now running in the direction of religious equality, were ready to ally themselves with any party which, to advance its own political interests, was willing to promote the political interests of the Church; and they, naturally, coalesced with those with whom the friends of religious freedom have always had to wage unceasing war. Public apathy in regard to political questions has favoured the alliance, the results of which have been seen in the indiscriminate rejection, by one or other House of Parliament, of every measure affecting the Church as an Establishment, whether emanating from the opponents of that Establishment or from those who would improve its internal administration. It has not been disguised that these measures have been resisted, less for any impression of their intrinsic demerits than on account of the supposed danger of making further changes which touch the legal status of the Church. The limits of concession to Nonconformists are declared to have been reached, and, henceforward, injustice must continue to be inflicted, lest the purposes of the Liberation Society should be in any degree furthered by the Legislature.

DEFENCES OF THE CHURCH.

So impressed with a sense of danger have State-Churchmen now become, that more than one central organisation, and some hundreds of local organisations, have been established expressly to counteract the influence exerted by the association whose aims it has taken them fifteen years to discover. In pursuit of this object, the methods of procedure for which that society has been denounced have been carefully imitated, while recourse has also been had to tactics from which it has scrupulously abstained. The utmost pains have been taken to excite alarm in the breasts of Episcopalians, and to impel them to political action. For these three years past no Episcopal or archidiaconal charge has been deemed complete which did not hold up the "Liberation Society" to odium, and lectures, sermons, and speeches, pamphlets, tracts, and articles, have been multiplied with the like intent.

Public opinion, however, the report goes on to remark, has been changed by the work of the society, and the separation of the Church from the State is now entertained as an idea which is capable of being realised. The continuance or the abandonment of Establishments promises to be the absorbing question of the time. On its part the society welcomes the activity which aids it in

preparing the mind of the country gravely to consider the question.

MODE OF DEFENCE.

Nor do they complain of the organisation for defensive purposes of those who believe in the scripturalness and expediency of a Church Establishment. They, at least, can respect the motives, and do justice to the religious character, of those from whom, in this matter, they so widely differ. In carrying on their own movement, they have eschewed personalities, that they might the better inculcate principles, and have sought to combine with firmness of purpose a regard for the rules of honourable controversy. If, as few will deny, the demeanour of many of their assailants has been of a different kind, that difference may be ascribed to the unfavourable influence which an Establishment exerts upon the clergy, and not to the feelings which animate Episcopalians as a body. These, it is believed, have no pleasure in attempts to defame the characters, instead of refuting the arguments, of Nonconformists; nor, in the recklessness of statement, the arrogance of spirit, and the virulence of invective which have marked recent attacks on the society, or on its more prominent members. Those attacks have not, so far as the committee are aware, weakened the attachment of any of its friends, while they have supplied fresh illustrations of the mischievousness of the exclusive privileges conferred on a Church which is established by law.

POLITICAL ACTION.

The action of the society in respect to the Census, the Declaration, the Burials, and the Endowed Schools Bills. With regard to the first, it is remarked that though foiled in obtaining a renewal of the Census of 1857, the society was able to defeat the insidious inquiry proposed to be substituted for it. The Declaration Bill had thrice passed the House of Commons, and the defeat of the Nonconformists Burials Bill is less surprising than the fact, that already 157 members of the House of Commons are willing that our parish churchyards, as being the property of the entire people, should be available for the performance of funeral rites by the clergy of every religious community. Mr. Dillwyn's persevering efforts to obtain for Dissenters full participation in the advantages afforded by endowed schools, and other charitable trusts, which were not intended for the exclusive enjoyment of Episcopalians, have not yet been crowned with success. But it is vain to expect a renewal of the easy victories which attended the reform of the universities, or that attempts to abolish other educational monopolies will not meet with a desperate resistance.

The position of the Church-rate Bill is referred to at considerable length, and it is remarked that its success, or its failure, will depend on the fidelity of the Liberal members to their hustings pledges, and no less on the firmness of those who, before long may have an opportunity of pronouncing an electoral judgment on their representatives. But, whatever may be the issue of the approaching division, the opponents of Church-rates will continue to hold the vantage ground they have so long occupied. Their antagonists may be able to maintain the existing law, but they are powerless to alter it in their own favour, and, as it now stands, it confessedly operates to the detriment of the Establishment. This society, therefore, can, in this matter, far better than in others, wait the pleasure of Parliament; since it has found no better arena for the discussion of its principles than the parish vestry—no greater source of strength than in the continuance of parochial contests.

PUBLICATIONS.

While the remark that the society's machinery can readily be adopted to varying political circumstances, the report states that already it has compensated for comparative inaction in Parliament by new efforts to awaken attention to the pernicious influence excited by the existing politico-ecclesiastical system. For this purpose neither labour nor expense has been spared to collect, to register and to diffuse accurate information relative to the constitution and working of the Establishment. The first fruits of this design may be seen in the elaborate pamphlets devoted to the Cathedral Establishments, to the proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Commission and to the administration of Ecclesiastical patronage—publications which will be followed by others relating to other topics of the like class. The subject of Church property has been dealt with in a work of larger dimensions, from the pen of one, whose rare devotedness to the society's cause has, the committee rejoice to find, evoked the gratitude of its friends, in proportion as it has exposed him to the anger of its foes. To the cries of "Robbery" and "Confiscation," by which it has been sought to divert attention from graver issues, the undeniable facts, and the cogent reasoning, of Mr. Miall's volume present an answer, the conclusiveness of which is shown by the silence of those whose ignorance it has exposed, and whose assumptions it has rebuked. The duty of securing a wide circulation for these, as well as the smaller publications issued by the society, is one which devolves upon all its friends. They afford to the least, as well as to the most influential, a means of doing something to inform the judgments and to stimulate the consciences of those who are as yet unconscious that to make religion a department of civil government is the surest way to hide its beauty and to rob it of its strength. There are large classes of the community who may be reached by these silent missives, but cannot be influenced by any other agency, and as the committee hope increasingly to avail themselves of the power of the press, so they also look for that zealous co-operation from others, without which writers and editors will vainly toil.

LECTURES.

The committee have sought still further to utilise the facts they have accumulated, by availing themselves of the services of thoroughly competent lecturers in various parts of the kingdom. The lectures already delivered have, for the most part, been attended by numerous audiences, and have excited unusual interest. They have also been supplemented by other lectures, delivered at the instance of independent committees, and in reply to the lectures of Church Defence Associations. The activity of these last-named bodies has proved highly serviceable to the society, both in stimulating its friends and in arousing the attention of the public. The assemblies which have repeatedly crowded the Free Trade Hall in Manchester, the Town Hall at Birmingham, and other capacious edifices in the great towns, to hear, not one side only, but both sides of the question raised by the society, prove that that question has passed from

the region of abstract speculation into the category of topics which journalists cannot ignore, and with which statesmen must prepare themselves to deal. The hold which the subject has taken on the public mind is further shown by the correspondence which occupies the columns of the provincial journals in almost every place where lectures are delivered, or other steps are taken to further the ends of the society.

FINANCE.

The report of the society's financial condition is encouraging. The committee state that they were able at the last conference to announce an increase in the subscription list to the amount of 500*l.*, and that in the present year, allowing for the Welsh subscriptions, the increase is nearly 1,000*l.* above the amount reported at the last conference.

THE BICENTENARY CELEBRATION.

The committee report that they had looked forward with eager anticipations to the Bicentenary celebrations, but that they had thought it expedient that on others rather than on them should devolve initiatory measures for such a commemoration. They have seen with joy the determination of almost all sections of Nonconformists, to combine with homage to the heroism of two centuries ago some service to the cause of truth and righteousness in the present age. Except in so far as its past labours have exercised a preparatory influence, this society cannot appropriate to itself the praise of such a demonstration; but, unquestionably, it hopes to secure, as the result, no inconsiderable increase of moral power. It may excite the ire of the Established clergy that attention should be called to the inconsistency of their public teaching with their solemnly-professed belief. It may lead some of them still further to separate themselves from their fellow-Christians in other communities; and it may increase the bitterness of those who cling to their political privileges, and to their superior social status, with not unnatural tenacity. These, however, will be but slight evils in comparison with the suppression of honest convictions in matters affecting the purity of Christ's Church; or in comparison with the lasting good to be effected by the wise use of a great and rare opportunity like this.

REAL STATE OF THE CHURCH.

It would seem to have been designed in the Providence of God that the English Church should, by a strange concurrence of events, be now obliged to face some of the worst evils growing out of its position as an Establishment. Pledged to uniformity by stringent enactments, and by solemn vows, its members never were so divided in practical action, or in theological belief. Its clergy can publish, almost with impunity, works declared to be subversive of the Christian faith, and even clerical immorality cannot be punished without scandals which make the punishment as hurtful as the offence. Hundreds demand liturgical revision, while thousands declare that it would involve the downfall of the Church. It is found that canons cannot be altered, that special services cannot be appointed, and that bishops cannot be multiplied, without encountering legal obstructions which dishearten her most hopeful sons. It is seen that legislative remedies for admitted evils end in mortifying failure—that vast revenues waste away in hands entrusted with their better appropriation—that pious prelates abuse patronage as grossly as worldly patrons—and that, as the clerical body increases, clerical pauperism the more abounds. These are some of the circumstances which at the present time fill the minds of thoughtful Churchmen with gloomy forebodings. It is not that personal piety declines, that there is no growth of Christian energy, and no spirit of liberality in the extension of the Church's work. These, happily, are to be seen in unprecedented measure; but, at the same time, there is seen an inability on the part of the Church of England to adapt itself to the circumstances of time, because, as an Establishment, it is hampered as is no other body. Men of spiritual sensitiveness feel that the taint of worldliness is necessarily upon it. Catholicity shrinks from its narrowness and intolerance, and earnestness is repelled by the unrealities which characterise so many of its legal arrangements; and, to give additional poignancy to these regrets, there is the knowledge that reformation must be the work of a Parliament which is utterly disqualified for the task, and the belief that its intervention would only threaten the Church with greater perils.

THE FUTURE OF THE QUESTION.

It is to a consciousness of all these facts that the committee attribute much of that irritation of feeling with which in recent years the proceedings of this society have been regarded. The clergy feel that many of their own number are, practically, coadjutors with it. They see that the tide of events is carrying away the ancient landmarks of opinion, and that public leaders are beginning to point their finger to a coming change. In the colonies religion is almost, or altogether, self-supported, and Episcopalians are comparatively free. In Wales, in Scotland, and in Ireland, an overwhelming preponderance of the population owe nothing to the Established Church for the means of religious culture and worship. On the continent, Protestants and Catholics alike declare that the régime of national religions is tottering, and that the religion of individual conviction must take their place; while even in Italy—the home of State Churches in its intensest form—a free Church in a free State is proclaimed to be the grand desideratum for a nation's welfare.

The movements of this society are now dreaded, not because its principles have just been dragged out of obscurity, but because they are seen to be in harmony with the tendencies of the time. When it speaks, men now listen to its teaching—when it acts, it finds them already prepared to accept its leadership. Therefore it is, that all who identify themselves with such a work will, for a time, more than ever expose themselves to the denunciations of those who identify the cause of Church Establishments with the cause of religion, and regard the enemies of the one as being also the enemies of the other. But though it may increase the difficulties of the enterprise, this will not prevent its triumph. Let patience have her perfect work, and in another age, if not in this, the purity of our aims will be recognised, and men will bless God for our faithfulness, as we now thank Him for the steadfast endurance of our Fathers.

Mr. W. EDWARDS, the treasurer, read the statement of accounts.

The Rev. W. WALTERS, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, moved the following resolution:—

That this conference rejoices at the evidence afforded by the triennial report of the executive committee now read, that notwithstanding the formation of numerous counter organisations, and the vehemence with which it has been assailed by the adherents of the Establishment, the society has carried on its operations with undiminished vigour, and the number of its supporters has considerably increased. That, however unsatisfactory the result of recent efforts to obtain from the Legislature measures based on the principles of religious equality, the conference regards with the utmost gratification the rapidity with which those principles are becoming the subject of general discussion.

He said that the resolution suggested some courses of action which it would be very desirable to take during the ensuing year. With regard to the opposition which the friends of the society had had to encounter in the formation of country organisation for the defence of the Establishment, his only fear was lest the opposition which had been suddenly raised would as suddenly die away. Many of the supporters of a State Church had learned that their strength lay in silence, and the society must be prepared to meet this renewed attempt to plunge them in obscurity. They must be prepared to encounter some indifference even from Dissenters. Many of the most apathetic to the movements of the society were those who ought to be leading the van in their operations. He thought that they would do well to revert to some of their earlier plans of operations. He quite agreed that it was of the highest importance to have a Parliamentary committee, but he felt that they ought more than ever to labour for the purpose of creating and maintaining public opinion.

The Rev. J. H. HINTON, who was received with much cheering, said he thankfully accepted the cordial welcome which the meeting had given him as a recognition of his fidelity to the objects of this society ever since its commencement. Advancing life, however it might diminish his physical strength, did not lessen his attachment to the Liberation Society. One missing countenance at least intimated that their friends must at last pass from them to a higher sphere of labour, but he did not think that the saints in heaven were less sincerely their friends than they had been on earth. It was not as though that society were preaching superstition or money-loving; if so, there might be something in an exchange of worlds to alter one's views of things; but they were striving to get hold of some element of the true, the just, the morally right and beautiful. And the glimmerings which they were able to get of these things on earth were glimmerings, nevertheless, of a beauty wherewith truth and justice should be surrounded, when the light of eternity and of God should shine upon them. His sincere prayer and belief was, that while they lived and when they came to die, that portion of their service which they rendered to God, and to his Church, and to mankind, should be presented with unfeigned sincerity and gracious acceptance at his footstool. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN having invited discussion, Mr. BENJAMIN BRYAN, of Chelmsford, said he agreed with the mover of the resolution that it would be well if the society revived its early plan of operations with the view of awakening and sustaining the public interest in its movements. He believed that there were a great many persons connected with Dissenting congregations who very greatly misunderstood its objects.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, of Rockham, Norfolk, in a humorous speech drew attention to the undefined position of the Establishment in regard to the teaching and character of the clergy. An estate had been left to him subject to his attending the Church of England periodically, and though he had no objection to go and listen at stated intervals to an Evangelical clergyman in an Episcopal church, he felt very uneasy at being obliged to listen to doctrines which might be in his view opposed to Scripture from a man whose character he might possibly not respect.

Mr. CHAPMAN, of Scarborough, objected to certain expressions in the report in reference to the Bicentenary movement, which he took to be totally distinct from the movements of their society. He also objected to the unmistakable allusion in the report to the late Bishop of Durham in reference to his appointment of his son-in-law to a valuable living. He thought that from a feeling of respect for the deceased, who he believed suffered great anxiety in consequence of the attacks that were made upon him, such allusion should be avoided.

Mr. E. MIALI said that the report derived information from all quarters, and that it was impossible to pass over the Bicentenary celebration—probably the salient and characteristic feature of the present year. The report neither conveyed approval nor disapproval of the celebration, nor of the mode pursued by those who were celebrating it, but simply stated, as he thought most wisely, that whatever the mode of celebration, the society would seek to improve the result of the agitation. With regard to the other matter, he might ask whether it were possible to report with regard to events illustrative of the scandals taking place in the Church of England without seeming to reflect upon individuals—possibly upon individuals who did not deserve the reflection. (Hear, hear.) He should be unwilling to act upon the principle that, in tenderness to men or to their memory it was the duty of such a society as that to refrain from pointing to acts which had excited the attention, and agitated the feelings of the greater portion of the religious society of this country.

The Rev. F. PRICE, of Aberdare, said that he wished to confirm the statement made by the proposer of the resolution that the public mind required to be

awakened in reference to the question of State-churchism. He should be only too glad to see a deputation from the Liberation to the principal towns in Wales, and on behalf of his Welsh friends he could assure them of a hearty welcome.

The resolution was then agreed to.

Mr. CHARLES ROBERTSON, of Liverpool moved the next resolution:—

That the conference regards without surprise the increase of votes against the Church-rates Abolition Bill, resulting from the unprecedented exertions of the Conservative party, while it has satisfaction in the fact that the votes in its favour have increased, instead of being diminished. That the conference approves of the course pursued by Sir John Trelawny in allowing to the opponents of his bill ample opportunity for the fulfilment of their implied pledge to submit a scheme for the settlement of the question, and it now appearing that no such proposal is likely to be made, the conference believes that Parliament will feel itself bound to sanction the only measure which had ever been supported by public opinion, or received the approval of a majority in the House of Commons. That, while the conference urges upon abolitionists the duty of requiring from Liberal representatives steadfast adherence to the bill, it has the firm conviction that, however undesirable the continued maintenance of the existing law, it furnishes facilities for the promotion of the society's objects, which may well reconcile its members to a prolongation of the struggle.

He said that the friends of the Church-rate abolition movement, although they lost their bill last year in the House of Commons had reason to congratulate themselves, inasmuch as the number of its supporters had not diminished although its opponents had increased their efforts to defeat it. He felt that the society had lost no ground by their temporary defeat. Keen opposition was to be expected, and a very vigorous use of the Parliamentary whips had been made by the Conservative party to defeat the measure. He believed, however, that public opinion had undergone no change, but that on the other hand when it was found that the opportunity afforded by the postponement of Sir John Trelawny's Bill for a measure of compromise to be brought forward had passed over without any such attempt being made, the nation would feel that there was still stronger ground for insisting upon total and unconditional abolition. The endeavour to liberate religion from the trammels of the State was in accordance with all the progressive tendencies of the age, and commanded the sympathy of nearly all the liberal and enlightened statesmen of the time. On this account he thought that the society should seek to place its aims and objects in a proper light before those who might possibly not feel exactly the same interest in the religious aspect of the movement as they did themselves.

Mr. R. RUMNEY, of Manchester, seconded the resolution, which was briefly spoken to by Mr. BONTOMS, of London, and the Rev. E. EVANS, delegate from Monmouthshire, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. T. GREEN, of Ashton, moved:—

That the conference highly appreciates the exertions of Mr. Dillwyn, M.P., to obtain for Nonconformists the full advantage of all educational foundations belonging to the public, and not designed for the exclusive enjoyment of Episcopalians, and recommends that in addition to renewed Parliamentary effort fresh steps be taken to spread information on the subject. The conference also thanks Mr. Haddield, M.P., for his endeavours to abolish the offensive declaration imposed on municipal and other public functionaries, for the acknowledged purpose of securing a recognition of the legal supremacy of the Church of England over other religious communities, and expresses a hope that the bill will be effectually supported by petitions from municipal bodies.

He thought that the subject matter of this resolution was destined to attract a good deal more of attention than it had done heretofore. Among the large mass of the people there had not been that curiosity about the educational institutions of the country which was desirable in a question of that sort. When once the public mind was thoroughly awakened as to the real facts of the case there would hardly be two opinions on the subject. When it was generally known that these endowments belonged to the public it would hardly be tolerated that they should be appropriated to a single denomination. Nonconformists had been placed in a most unfair position in regard to those endowments; not only were they debarred from participating in the educational advantages which they afforded but they were often taunted with ignorance. He was ready to acknowledge the benefits which learned men in the Church of England had conferred upon their country and the world, but at the same time it should be clearly put before the public that Oxford and Cambridge, and schools long since endowed, were not denominational, but were national property. With regard to the other subject to which the resolution referred it was often a matter of great wonder to him how Dissenters could take the oath or declaration tendered to them on entering into municipal offices. It was to the effect that nothing should be done by them in their official capacity contrary to the interests of the Established Church. He believed that if Dissenters had throughout consistently refused to make that declaration it would long since have been expunged from the Statute-book. (Hear, hear.)

Professor NEWTH, of New College, in seconding the resolution, said it appeared to him a monstrous thing that, in the nineteenth century, such a claim should be set before the minds of intelligent men as that which was proposed to them when they were required to make the declaration referred to. It meant that, with regard to an institution which came home to every man in the country, interfering with his personal liberty, and affecting him in the most solemn moments of his life, those who entered upon municipal offices should not enter upon any criticisms, should not enquire into the validity of its authority, nor find fault with the doings of its officers. He knew of no earthly power which had any right to make this demand of a man. (Cheers.) They had often heard lately that the Liberation Society was seeking to destroy the Church of England. He

blushed for his Christian brethren in the Establishment that they could entertain any such opinions. Was the Church a thing to be destroyed by man? Was it so entirely human that the utterances and the votes of a creature could destroy it? If that were so then let it be destroyed. (Hear, hear.) They did not wish to destroy what was pure and good in the Established Church, but only that which limited its power and tainted its parity. If he saw a fellow-man in chains and hastened to burst his fetters, could it be said that he wished to destroy his brother? They believed the Church of England to be in bondage, and they would break her fetters, and it was a holy enterprise. Success might not have attended their efforts according as they might have wished, but with true and earnest men success was not the only motive and incentive for continued perseverance. Still, they had not laboured in vain. They could look around and see the first springing up of the harvest; and so let them go on, strong in faith, assured that no true thing or true deed should ever be said or done in vain.

Mr. WHITEHEAD, of Bradford, said he took a special interest in the latter portion of the resolution as he was a member of the Town Council of Bradford, and had made the declaration referred to. He differed from the preceding speakers, however, in thinking that the declaration could not consistently be taken by Dissenters. For himself he had no hesitation in taking it as he never intended to take any steps in his capacity as Councillor to the detriment of the Church of England any more than of any other religious community. By the course the Liberation Society took on that question, as well as on others, they were seeking not to harm, but to benefit the Church.

Mr. E. GRIMWADE, of Ipswich, said he occupied the same position as the last speaker, besides having been twice Mayor of Ipswich, and he took precisely the same view of the question. He felt that the proposal for him to make the declaration referred to insulted him, but he could not say that he felt any conscientious objection to taking it. The corporation of Ipswich happened to be the only one in the kingdom which was called upon to make Church-rates, but in voting against the rate he never felt that he was violating his declaration, as he solemnly believed he was acting for the true interest of the Church. Mr. Grimwade concluded by moving the addition to the resolution which we have printed in italics, and which was adopted by the mover and seconder as part of the proposition.

Mr. R. WILKINSON of Totteridge-park, Herts, said that the statement of the previous speaker (Mr. Green), that Dissenters derived no benefit from the Universities was not now exactly true, as both Oxford and Cambridge were now open. Within the last three years two Dissenters were senior wranglers at Cambridge, but having taken the highest educational honours, they sacrificed the emoluments resulting from their position rather than subscribe to the requisite declaration.

Dr. FOSTER having given some interesting information respecting the progress of the Qualification for Offices Bill,

The resolution was agreed to.

The Rev. G. W. CONDER, of Leeds, read an elaborate and stirring paper on "Anti-State Churchism during the last two centuries." It was a pungent and animated review of all the legislative acts in favour of toleration, and subsequently of religious equality, since the period of the ejection. It was heard with sustained interest throughout, and many passages were loudly applauded, especially those which related to the debates in Parliament, when Pitt opposed and Fox supported the rights of the Dissenters. Mr. Fox was questioned as on one occasion, remarking that when a majority of the people of England were in favour of the abolition of the State Church, in such a case, the abolition ought immediately to follow. And Earl Stanhope indicating the inevitable progress of religious freedom, had said the Dissenters now ask for toleration as a favour; when they become more numerous they will ask for it as a right, and the time will come when they will reject it as an insult. After tracing the history of the battle for freedom through successive stages to the formation of the Anti-State Church Association eighteen years ago, he proceeded to sketch the efforts of that organisation, now known as the Liberation Society, down to the present time, in reference to the marriage law, the burial of the dead, the abolition of Church rates, and the opening of the door of the universities, and closed by saying:—So much for what has been done—what yet remains? Alas! a large portion of the work. The church-rate impost has to be shaken off. The right of the Church to sit as a Church in Parliament, and legislate for the nation in the proud assembly of hereditary peers, and use her advantage to the oppression of the large, wealthy, and powerful Dissenting community, has still to be successfully challenged. Still, if he be foolish enough to do so, the clergyman can go about his parish and tell all who are foolish enough to listen to him that he is the only authorised minister in the place, and that it is sinful schism to accept any other ministrations than his. Still, the one privileged sect, the largest, the strongest of all, uses, and in many cases squanders, a vast amount of national property in its own maintenance and propagation, and takes by the force of law what it ought spontaneously to give by the price of love, for the preaching of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God. It harbours and shelters within its pale, aye, puts into its high places, men who teach for truth what goes in the very teeth of the Holy Scripture, and supports them by the money that comes from the whole. Divided into sects in itself—sects most thoroughly opposite in teaching,

and most antagonistic in their antipathies—it yet imposes itself on the nations as the one Catholic Church of England, and will tolerate all these internal anomalies—aye, and boast of them as proving the ample breadth of her base and comprehensive horizon of her creed, rather than abate one jot of her pretensions to be the Church of England established by law. And our task is no smaller or shorter one than to deprive her, since she will not give it up, of all her power. But the centuries are on our side. The seventeenth century, that gave her birth, cried out against her injustice, and not in vain. Her act of uniformity was the deathblow to her universality, and lost her hold upon the nation. In the day of her birth, her name of the National Church became a lie, and the falsehood has been growing ever since. She was forced to tolerate what she could not win to her embraces or persecute out of her way. The eighteenth century cried out against her and condemned her in the fittest way. It took out of her hand one whole charter of her supremacy, and bade her come on a level with the rest of the community in civil concerns. The nineteenth century has cried out against her, and is crying still; not now with the angry voice that comes from the lips of the persecuted and the heavily oppressed, as in the seventeenth, nor with the clamorous voice of those whom she shuts out from every post of honour and of power, as in the last century, but with that quieter and more potent voice of calm and earnest conviction of the right, against which no church that is based upon State-craft, and upheld by Parliamentary authority rather than upon Divine right and Scriptural authority, can long continue to stand. (Loud Cheers.)

Mr. HANDEL COSHAM moved the following resolution:—

That it appears from the history of past struggles for the attainment of religious rights in this country, that it has been openly and constantly avowed, both in Parliament and elsewhere, that the separation of the Church from the State was the ultimate aim of not a few of those who took part in them. That such efforts have been uniformly met by the same protests and the same objections as are offered to the measures which this society endeavours to promote; and this conference believe that the appeals of their opponents to the passions and prejudices of the present generation will prove as unavailing as were similar appeals in a past age. That the members of this conference record their admiration of the noble persistency of their predecessors in striving after religious equality, and finds in the measure of success which crowned their labours an encouragement to continue their own exertions, until all classes in the realm are placed on an equal footing before the law in respect to religious faith and ecclesiastical organisation.

The resolution, he said, had his heartiest approval, and no one, he thought, could have listened to the thoroughly able and, he would add, Christian papers just read without being convinced, in the first place, that a State Church can exist in no country without a great wrong being done to those who are outside its pale, even although it might be a Church as little indisposed as the present Establishment of England to prevent the progress of spiritual religion and to deny the people their civil rights. In the next place it was almost equally manifest that a State Church could not exist without injury to the Church itself. The ecclesiastical history of the last two hundred years had been a history of gross persecution, and the purpose of this society was to lend a helping hand to carry on the movement which our fathers began—to bring this state of things to an end. (Cheers.) The State Church in this country was the cause of nine-tenths of the disunion between Christians; and though there might be, as Mr. Conder had said, a species of fulsome patronage there never could be that cordial union which ought to subsist between Christian men until this root of bitterness had been destroyed. (Cheers.) It was, moreover, an inquiry to the State, by giving rise to exclusive and unjust legislation. He was disposed to think that much advantage would arise out of the present Bicentenary celebration. The discussions in which we were now engaged would make Nonconformists nobler and stronger, and ground them on granite foundations. Men of thought and feeling could not reflect upon the histories of the men of two hundred years ago, and read of their noble struggles for freedom without becoming stronger and better than before. The discussion would also do the Church a world of good. It had already begun to open the eyes of its friends. The Liberation Society could not complain that no attention was paid to it now, for its proceedings were most carefully watched. This ought to make its members feel that they spoke under a deeper sense of responsibility, and to endeavour to speak well. They had now a platform from which they could speak so as to be heard by the country. But their Church friends did not understand them yet. Some of them said that the Dissenters wished to get the Church property. But this was an entire mistake. (Hear, hear.) If any church was to be endowed, let it be the present Church rather than any other. If any Church was to be corrupted let it be the present. (Laughter and cheers.) Dissenters had no intention to ask for a single farthing for the propagation of their particular religious sentiments. (Cheers.) It was also untrue that the advocates of the liberation of the Church from the State were the enemies of religion. It was a slander; for amongst them were some of the noblest friends of religion. Neither did they want to destroy the Church as an organisation for doing Christ's work in the world. It was now acknowledged that the men of two centuries ago, who opposed the Act of Uniformity, were the best friends of the Church; and he would venture to predict that in the future it would be said of those who now sought for the deliverance of the Church from the State, they were the best friends the Church ever possessed. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. DAVIES, of Aberaman, South Wales, seconded the resolution.

Mr. HADFIELD, M.P., in supporting it, said the subject had arrived at a very interesting position, and he advised that the friends of Voluntaryism should not be dissatisfied in respect of the past, nor be impatient of the future. He had often regarded his friends Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright with respect and reverence on account of what they had achieved in the direction of free trade; but that which the supporters of this society was contending for was a far more magnificent cause than freedom of commerce, involving as it did the highest and best interests of humanity both in this life and in that which is to come. While hearing the paper of Mr. Conder, he was forcibly reminded of the remark of the sage to his son, "See with what little wisdom the world is governed;" and indeed the persecution against Dissenters was a record of utter childishness. It was delightful to know, however, that prayers had been and were still being made. These who opposed reforms in the Church were its worst enemies, for Dissenters' grievances were fulcrums on which to place levers for shaking the edifice; and those were its best friends who advocated its complete separation from the State. (Cheers.)

On the motion of Mr. BATEMAN BROWN, of St. Ives, seconded by the Rev. J. MURSELL, of Kettering, a resolution appointing a committee of selection to prepare lists of the new executive committee and council was passed; and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the session.

SECOND DAY'S CONFERENCE.

The Conference re-assembled yesterday morning at eleven o'clock. Among the gentlemen present, in addition to those who were at the Conference on the first day, were J. Candlish, Esq. (Mayor of Sunderland), Mr. Sheriff Cockerell, Rev. W. Brook, Rev. P. Thomson, Rev. R. Richard, S. Morley, Esq., Rev. F. Tucker, W. Lankester, Esq. (Southampton), Thos. Bantock, Esq. (Wolverhampton), W. Morgan, Esq., Rev. J. G. Miall (Bradford), Joseph Fletcher (Christchurch), W. Warburton, Esq. (Manchester), J. Gee, Esq. (Denbigh), Rev. Christopher Nevile (Rector of Bawtry), &c. A letter was read from Mr. Dillwyn, M.P., regretting his absence.

J. J. COLMAN, Esq., of Norwich, was called to the chair, and observed that the present aspect of Nonconformity was such, that its friends had no reason to be ashamed of their principles, but every encouragement to state them boldly, though not sarcastically or severely, as against those who differed from them. He hoped that the Conference would be productive of good in stirring up Nonconformists throughout the country, and leading them still more faithfully to proclaim and sustain their convictions on the great subject of religious liberty.

Mr. WM. EDWARDS brought up the report of the business committee.

The society's constitution having been read by the Secretary.

The Rev. PATRICK THOMSON, of Manchester, moved that it continue to be the constitution of the society for the next three years; and in doing so he said that the interest felt in the society at Manchester had considerably deepened and extended within the last year, largely in consequence of the course taken by the clergy of the Established Church in reference to the Bicentenary movement. Many who were wavering in their Nonconformist principles had been confirmed, and the lukewarm had become zealous and anxious to diffuse them amongst all classes of society.

Mr. W. TICE, of Sopley, seconded the resolution, and it was adopted unanimously and without discussion.

Mr. HANSON, of Bradford, moved the following resolution:—

That the conference heartily approves of the determination of the Executive Committee, by means of the press and of public lectures, to avail itself to the utmost of the favourable opportunities now presented for diffusing the society's principles, and for calling public attention to the constitution and working of the Establishment; it therefore urges upon all the society's friends the duty of giving effect to such design by earnest and well-directed local effort.

The lectures which had already been delivered and published were doing a great work at the present time, and he strongly advised that the press should be employed to the utmost, especially the local papers, and that the most able men that could be secured should be engaged to deliver lectures on the various phases of the subject.

The Rev. T. H. MORGAN, of Birmingham, in seconding the resolution, said he rejoiced that their principles were now being sown broadcast over the land. They had heard on the preceding evening from Mr. Dale, of Birmingham, that they had been silent long enough. (Hear, hear.) Another fellow-townsmen, Dr. Miller, had set the example of speaking out, for he was the first to lecture there on the question of the right of Nonconformists to celebrate the Bicentenary. That lecture was answered in a masterly, eloquent, and dignified way by the gentleman to whom they listened last night. (Hear.) He was anxious that they should, none of them, allow themselves to be drawn into a false issue on this matter. Efforts were being made to bring this discussion down from the high and lofty platform of principle to the low level of mere personality. This issue had not been allowed to have its influence in Birmingham, and he trusted that it would not be suffered to have its influence anywhere in the ranks of Nonconformists. Neither let them be induced to maintain silence either upon the political or the religious evils of State Churches. Everything relating to a National Church, the people of the nation had a right to discuss. He trusted that the pulpit

as well as the press and the platform would be used for the purpose of diffusing the truth upon these questions. Let the action of Nonconformists be more energetic, and at the same time thoroughly dignified.

The Rev. E. WILLIAMS, from Wales, supported the resolution, and created some amusement by quoting from a tract written by a clergyman entitled, "Twenty-four reasons why I dare not become a Dissenter."

Mr. WHITEHURST, the chairman of the Ballot Society, suggested that the hustings was one of the best platforms that the friends of the society could speak from, and advised that a Liberation Society man should be put up to make a speech at every election that might occur. By this means many unwilling ears would hear the truth.

Mr. BRIGGS, of Daventry, urged the importance of endeavours being made to instruct the young men of Nonconformist congregations in their principles, by individual conversation and by classes for systematic teaching.

Mr. PRICE, of Aberdare, doubted the propriety of using the hustings as advised by Mr. Whitehurst, but strongly urged that the local press should be well worked, and that the pulpit as well as the platform should be legitimately employed.

The Rev. W. GRIFFITH, of Derby, was, on the contrary, persuaded that speeches on the hustings would be of signal advantage to the spread of Nonconformist principles.

The Rev. J. MURSELL could not say to what extent the young men of their congregations were ignorant of their principles, but it was certainly most desirable and proper that they should be instructed from the pulpit; and he regretted that any of their ministers should hesitate to speak out on what they believed to be a part of the Gospel of Christ. He was far from recommending that they should turn political preachers, but would counsel the not neglecting at proper times to set forth this part of the truth from the pulpit.

Mr. H. PHILLIPS, of Hanley, thought that much effect would be produced by the liberal and regular distribution of pamphlets through the post, following the example of the Anti-Corn Law League.

Mr. H. O. WILLS, of Bristol, related what had been done in the use of the press in his neighbourhood, and said that the numerous articles that had appeared in the daily and weekly papers had exercised a wide and powerful influence upon masses of the people.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, of Wrexham, advised the free distribution of historical information.

Mr. E. MIALL wished to say a word or two with a view to impress the minds of the delegates present with the extreme importance of each individual, as far as he is able, making use of the press for the purpose of spreading a knowledge of the principles of the association. There had been a great want amongst Dissenters of tact, and zeal, and liberality in reference to the use of printed matter with a view to enlighten the minds of those with whom they come in contact. Most probably this resulted from want of thought and consideration, and in some cases want of habit on the part of those who might serve the cause abundantly in this way. Gentlemen who have a moderate competence, who are really anxious to do something with a view to advance their principles might purchase small packets of tracts made up for the express purpose of giving a most distinct information for those who do not possess it in respect of the objects in aim, and the motives of this organisation; and a very little money judiciously spent in that way, not fitfully but steadily, perseveringly, and systematically, would do the utmost good. (Hear, hear.) He believed they had placed more dependence than they ought to have placed upon great machinery—a machinery that must be productive of results which could be viewed at the instant, and in the presence of which they seemed to be accomplishing great things. If they ever meant their principles to be diffused through the minds of the English population it must be by smaller means than those which were usually adopted—means that shall reach each individual mind. He believed that gentlemen who had the means of circulating publications in the manner he had suggested, could not serve the cause better than in this way.

The Rev. H. W. PARKINSON, of Rochdale, then read a very interesting and telling paper "on certain aspects of the St. Bartholomew Bicentenary celebration," which is to be published.

The Rev. J. PILLANS, of Camberwell, moved the following resolution:—

That, in the ejection of 2,000 godly clergymen from the Established Church by the Act of Uniformity of 1662, in the restrictions to which they were subjected, in the sufferings which they endured, this Conference sees the natural result of the assumption by the State of the right to exercise authority in matters of religion; that the Conference expresses its profound admiration of the fidelity to conscience exhibited by the refusal of the ejected ministers to conform to the requirements of the Legislature; and while aware that that refusal was not attributable to any abstract objection to the union of the Church with the State, it recognises in their act a virtual denial of the right claimed by the state to exercise influence over the consciences of men. The Conference, therefore, rejoices in the celebration of the bicentenary of their ejection, and expresses its confident earnest hope that it will advance in a marked degree the principles of this association.

We could not forget, he said, that the State Church has a history. It is not now what it once was, and the reason for the change must be looked to. The resolution expressed the belief that the restrictions and the sufferings of the men of two hundred years ago, who came out of the Church, did not arise from any unlawful outbreak of passion, but was the natural and necessary unfoldings of the State-Church theory in existence at that time. It was that which led to those restrictions and sufferings with which we had to

do, for the purpose of crushing it. Dissenters had won their freedom from the State-Church power, but within its own sphere where it operates it did its old work still, holding with a mailed hand the consciences of its subjects. To these it had in no wise changed. The resolution next expressed the condition that Nonconformists now are the natural descendants of the ejected ministers. And without doubt this was so, for we had only applied these principles to their legitimate issues, travelling a little further along the path in which they walked. They give us this grand principle—"No power may interfere with us in trying to understand and to work out God's will." They thought the State was bound to take up and help men to carry out these convictions of theirs; but our experience had led us to the conclusion that if men are to receive from Jehovah alone direction and guidance then no civil power ought to interfere. (Hear, hear.) The ejected ministers were men who searched for new truths and followed whatever light they found; and we should not have been their successors if we had not grown. He thought that the Conference must approve of the conduct of the Liberation Society, in regard to the Bicentenary movement, as they must also be convinced that it was in itself an exceedingly well-timed movement, in regard both to the state of things within the State-Church and throughout the country generally. He believed that the movement exactly met the mood of mind in which the people now are. (Hear, hear.) He was convinced that the Liberation Society would close the year in a far better position than it occupied at the beginning. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. E. WHITE, in seconding the resolution, said this was his first appearance on the platform of the Liberation Society, not, however, because he had not sympathised with its objects, but because he had felt so deeply the special importance of the theological aspect of the controversy. In seconding the resolution, which he did most heartily, he would observe that they were summoned to two distinct and contrary operations. They were first called upon to do honour to the two thousand ejected ministers, and to do this intelligently it was necessary to study the history of those men and their times, and to appreciate properly their objections to read over again the absolution service, the ordination service and the burial service; and having done so himself he was more than ever satisfied that he was right in remaining out of the Established Church as a minister. The other operation to which they were called was of a very different character, meaning to invent excuses for those who still remained within the Established Church. To this task he was wholly unequal, for it appeared to him that there was not very much room for misapprehension of the meaning of the articles to which subscription was required, and he could not divest his mind of the impression that it was not right for gentlemen to sign these articles and then spend their lives in preaching doctrines that were utterly contrary to them. (Hear, hear.) And the business of Nonconformists he took it during the present year was to say that this was not right. (Cheers.) The great moral evil afflicting England now was unvaricity in all departments of business; and the ministry of the Church of Christ ought to have a body of men able to look the nation in the face and preach the duty of veracity without flinching and without terror. (Cheers.) And it was because he felt that none of the clergy could quite do this that he was persuaded the Nonconformists were doing a service to the moral welfare of Great Britain by lifting up a bold testimony in behalf of simple, straightforward hearty veracity, and if this was to expose him to the charge of being a rabid Dissenter he would bear the charge most cheerfully.

The Rev. W. GRIFFITH believed that if there were no temporalities in question there would be many more than 2,000 clergymen leaving the Church now.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Rev. S. G. GREEN, of Rawdon College, read an able and informing paper "On the Recent Events in the Church of England." At its close,

The Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER, of Christchurch, moved:—

That recent events in the history of the Anglican Church have shown that the growth of public opinion and of Christian knowledge has had no influence in eradicating its abuses or in correcting its administration; that in the opinion of this Conference these events strikingly illustrate the injury done to the cause of religion by the subservency of an important branch of the Christian Church to the patronage and control of the State. That in the judgment of the Conference those abuses are characteristic of, and necessarily result from, the connection of the Church with the State, which connection renders impossible any thorough reformation in the Church's constitution, character, or administration. Remarking upon the love of freedom as a characteristic of the English people, and the progress that had been made in their social and political condition, he illustrated the influence of the changes that had occurred upon the state and position of the Church of England, and expressed his conviction that the influences which were at work, both in the Church and in society, would in the end bring about the freedom of the Church from the civil power.

The Rev. JAMES MIAL, of Bradford, seconded the resolution.

The Rev. W. BROCK expressed his entire concurrence in the paper just read, and his admiration of the tone and temper it displayed. Unlike Mr. White, he was upon the first platform the Liberation Society ever had, and though called upon to forsake the society he did not intend to respond to the call. (Cheers.) Regarding what had been said about subscription, he must observe that although it was to him insurmountably difficult to reconcile subscription to the formularies of the Church of England

with honesty and uprightness, there were men in the Church who were as honest and upright as he was himself—(Hear, hear)—and who were as honest and upright before God as he was, and who had no intention whatever to sacrifice truth or to compromise conscience. He had felt constrained to make these remarks in consequence of some words uttered by his friend Mr. White. When we began to take the clergy to task in reference to their subscription, it would be well for us to look sharply to ourselves, and to ascertain if we carried out faithfully all our trust-deeds to which there had been a virtual subscription.

Mr. E. MIAL and the Rev. E. White rose together. Mr. White giving way, Mr. MIAL said he did not understand that Mr. White intended to say that the clergy of whom he spoke were men of dishonest character. (Hear, hear.) That they might be tempted into an act of dishonesty appeared to him to be the whole of the indictment that Mr. White had brought against them; that their subscription was an act of dishonesty unless they believed in the full extent of that to which they subscribed. And it was very important for us to draw this distinction. A man might be a Christian man, and yet do a very unchristian act; otherwise what would become of any of us? A clergyman, in consequence of the mode in which he has been trained and the position in which he was placed, might find it to be almost impossible to withdraw. No doubt a retreat ought to be effected in carrying out a Christian principle; but we had no right to say that because he did not retreat he has not an honest character. What we had a right to say was that such clergymen were not honest in a particular act. He did not think that any of the clergy could be regarded by men who would look the truth in the face as men who in their subscription to that which they did not thoroughly believe, had exhibited honesty of conduct. That their characters were as good as ours, and that generally speaking their devotion to the cause of their Master was as profound and intense as any that could be found among Dissenters was willingly admitted. But there must be no attempt to explain that which is unnatural in its own character—a deviation from truthfulness which must suppose some conscious deviation from strict honesty in the party guilty of it. We were bound in charity to make all possible allowances for men who had been cruelly placed in the position in which they find themselves, but we were not bound to say that they could do that which was a dishonest act with an honest intention.

The Rev. E. WHITE said he intended no distinct charge whatever on the honesty of any order of clergymen, but he did intend to make the affirmation that in his judgment it was impossible to reconcile the present subscription with honesty in that particular department of action.

The Rev. C. NEVILL, Rector of Bawtry, said he was certain, from what he had seen at the Conference during the two days, that its members were desirous only of fair discussion, for the purpose of arriving at the truth, and that there was no justice in the allegation made by the Church Institution that the Liberation Society sought to plunder the Church. He had not arrived at the position occupied by the society, but was satisfied that the Prayer-book needed to be reformed, and that the whole system of the Establishment required to be altered. Many of the statements to which subscription was required were not in accordance with the New Testament, and could not be reconciled with each other. He had laboured for many years to bring about the necessary reforms, and was anxious for the repeal of the Act of Uniformity. He held two family livings in the Church in which of late years curates had been placed, and he had given the bishop notice of his intention to relinquish them, in order to be in a better position to assist in carrying out the reforms that he felt to be necessary. But he did not feel that he should be more honest next year than now. He proceeded to point out the difficulties in which many of the clergy were placed by their having been destined by their parents to the Church at an early age, and called upon the conference to carefully distinguish, though it was very difficult, between the system and the men. Therev. gentleman sat down amidst general cheering.

After a few words from Mr. Bateman Brown, and Mr. Handel Cossam,

Mr. S. MORLEY expressed his admiration of the paper of Mr. Green, and renewed his allegiance to the Liberation Society as the exponent of that great principle—the spirituality of Christ's kingdom. He agreed entirely with the remarks of Mr. Brock, and held it to be utterly wrong to judge other men by our own standard, or to make any imputations whatever upon private character.

After a few words from Mr. Mursell, the resolution was agreed to.

The new committee and council were then elected on the motion of Mr. E. Clarke, seconded by Mr. S. Allen. On the motion of Mr. Sheriff Cockerell, seconded by Mr. W. Edwards, a vote of thanks was awarded to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

THE ANNUAL SOIREE.

About four hundred ladies and gentlemen assembled at the Whittington Club at six o'clock yesterday evening. After tea, CHARLES ROBERTSON, Esq., of Liverpool, took the chair, and was surrounded by a large number of ministers and gentlemen, among whom were Duncan McLaren, Esq., of

Edinburgh; H. O. Wills, Esq., of Bristol; Professor Newth, of New College; Rev. J. Burnet; J. Cripps, Esq., of Leicester; Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham; Rev. J. Graham; E. Mial, Esq., Rev. H. Ashton; Rev. J. Fletcher, of Christchurch; Rev. J. G. Mial, of Bradford; Rev. Christopher Neville, of Bawtry; H. Twelvrees, Esq.; J. Spencer, Esq., of Manchester; Rev. Henry Richard, G. F. Whitely, Esq.; J. Candlish, Esq., Mayor of Sutherland; Mr. Sheriff Cockerell; Rev. W. Brock; Rev. P. Thomson; Rev. A. Richard; S. Morley, Esq.; Rev. F. Tucker, W. Lankester, Esq., Southampton; Thomas Bantock, Esq., Wolverhampton; W. Morgan, Esq., Birmingham; W. Warburton, Esq., Manchester; J. Gee, Esq., Denbigh; &c., &c.

The CHAIRMAN said: Ladies and Gentlemen—I felt it an honour to be at any time called upon to preside over the anniversary of a society in whose proceedings I have always taken the deepest interest, and whose unwearied earnestness and zeal has always commanded my admiration, I should feel it particularly an honour on this occasion, when the society has become the best abused of all the societies in the three kingdoms—though it is notorious that the Liberation Society is the great bogey of the day. It is known to be at the bottom of all intrigues and dissensions; and whatever mischief is brewing, we are told on the highest authority, this society is sure to have a finger in the fire. But, gentlemen, we are really too modest to appropriate to ourselves all these handsome compliments. (A laugh.) We do not believe we have such a capability for wielding this evil influence as our kind friends attribute to us; but we do accept those charges and insinuations as a proof that our power is felt, that our operations have struck home, and that we are now recognised as a great fact. (Cheers.) We have been during the last two days engaged in a conference with a view of giving that movement a new three years' lease of existence. We have reviewed its position and prospects, and the result of this has been to inspire us with fresh courage and hope. (Cheers.) Not that it has been all fair weather and plain sailing with us during that last three years since that previous conference met; our hopes have been in many cases deferred and our plans have not always been crowned with success, but I regard all these defeats and apparent reverses as part of our education, and the schooling through which we have to pass that our principles may be duly-tempered, and our faith in them confirmed—(hear, hear)—an occasion too for proving to men that ours is not holiday labour, which we can take up and lay by at pleasure, but the life-long consecration of our best powers to a cause which grows on us in greatness and strength, the more we become familiar with its varying aspects and diversified operations. (Loud cheers.) With respect to the question of Church-rates, we have received a check which, compared with our former progress, may be considered as equivalent to a defeat. But it has only served to impel the society's efforts in a new channel—to direct them less to Parliament and more to constituents, who are the makers of Parliaments, and if, after all, it should be found, as possibly it will, that this battle of Church-rates will have to be fought less in the Legislature than in the parish vestries, I venture to predict an immense acquisition of strength to our cause by this process of enlightening the public mind, and we shall make the principles with which we seek to imbue them available for far higher purposes than the mere abolition of a rate. (Hear, hear.) For in itself the question of Church-rates is only an infinitesimal question of reform, and we have advocated their abolition so far, rather for the sake of peace and friendly feeling among the members of the same community. We believe, however, that though the tide sometimes recedes, it is still advancing, and in proof of this, we have not a few evidences. One is, the altered tactics of our opponents on every side, who have taken a leaf out of our book. We have seen Church Institutes, Defence Associations, and Committees of Laymen, all mustering their hosts in support of things as they are—lecturers are abroad—the platform begins to resound with the din of controversy—the press is aroused, and critics and reviewers are buckling on their armour to contend for that faith that was once promulgated by Henry VIII. (laughter and cheers,) and was finally confirmed by that most religious of monarchs, the second Charles. (Loud laughter.) All this is hopeful. It betokens inquiry and earnestness. The very worst times for us are times of slumber. While the Church remained on the vantage-ground of its position and retained a dignified silence against all our attacks, we felt it was uphill work, and no easy task to gain the ear of an indifferent public, but now that arguments and principles are called upon to decide the question, that the community are appealed to as judges in the question whether institutes of religion are to be supported by the compulsory or voluntary principle, and that the Church Establishment has of her own accord come before the world on her trial, I say we feel we have made great advance and we are much nearer to the end which we have in view. (Applause.) I remember at the time of the movement for the repeal of the Corn Laws how gladly the members of the League hailed the formation of the Protection societies, and when in a fit of enthusiasm farmer Chowler offered to march a troop of yeomanry into London to support that great tax, and Serjeant Byles wrote a book to show that Protection was the mainstay and salvation of this country, then we all felt the end was at hand; and the event proved it to be so. (Hear, hear.) Now, we are not by any means so far advanced. We have only got to the stage of Protection societies, and we look impatiently and anxiously for the book.

(Hear and laughter.) I want now to call your attention to the manner in which the defenders of the Establishment have taken up this question, showing their total misconception of the position we have taken up; and, indeed, one is tempted to ask the question—is their ignorance assumed or real? (Hear, hear.) Do these gentlemen not know that this society never has pronounced any opinion on church government in ecclesiastical ordination or doctrine? (Hear, hear.) We may be said to be Episcopalians just as much as Presbyterians or Independents. We favour none, as we condemn none. We number Conformists among our members as well as Nonconformists, and there is nothing whatever in the object of this society intended to repel the one more than the other. Do not these gentlemen also know that we have always asserted that no religious body, be its doctrines what it may, ought ever to be entrusted with temporal power or political ascendancy. We have no interest in falsifying or perverting past history. We look at it and see that Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Independents have persecuted in the past, and they would do so again if they had the power and there was not an enlightened public opinion to check them. (Hear, hear.) For my own part, I believe if an Apostle came down to-day and founded a church composed entirely of saints, and it possessed temporal power, that before fifty years were over it would be found to be both intolerant and proud. (Hear, hear.) We say, therefore, we are justified in asserting that wherever this evil tree is found these corrupt fruits will always appear. (Hear, hear.) We believe that wherever we go we shall find either more or less developed the same fruits. We know our forefathers took this evil tree with them when they crossed the Atlantic in search of new homes and new altars: though they respected their own consciences yet they did not learn the secret of respecting the consciences of other people. Another reason why I say that supporters of an establishment do not understand our principles is, because they are always dwelling on that question of the relative merits of Church and Dissent. Supposing for the sake of argument that I were to grant the Church Establishment always consisted of congregations of faithful men, that they were as sound as the apostles in their doctrine, that their labours were as self-denying and as zealous as the primitive churches, and that we, on the other hand, the communities of Nonconformists, were synagogues of Satan and disseminators of all that was revolutionary and heretical—that you will allow is a large admission—(laughter)—but granting all, it does not advance us one step in arriving at a decision on the point. All these things then show us that the position which these gentlemen have taken in regard to this question is one which involves a total misconception of the objects of this society, and I think, therefore, we shall do great good by putting as clearly before them as we can, and I should hope the events of this year will enable us to do so with great effects, the fundamental principles on which our society is founded. I wish to say, in conclusion, that I think the times through which we are passing, and the momentous events of which we are spectators, will nerve us to a just conception of the greatness of our position, and to a responsibility to act worthy of it. (Hear, hear.) I believe there are men amongst who, in no spirit of boasting, no heat of passion, no sectarian bitterness, but in a large Catholic and true-hearted spirit, will carry on this work as long as they live, and will bequeath it as an heirloom of freedom's battle to their sons. (Hear, hear.) I am sure there are no men more sensible to the attractions of a true brotherly unity. (Hear, hear.) It is possible we may treasure it more profoundly than men who may make it more of a lip service. (Hear.) I say there can be no unity between the master and the slave, between the despot and the serf, between the men who have acquired privilege and power and those at whose cost that ascendancy has been acquired. (Hear, hear.) When the fundamental law of Christ's kingdom—"Do unto men as you would wish men to do unto you"—is ignored, how can there be peace and unity? (Hear, hear.) And it is because we would have all these barriers swept away, and would remove the obstructions which a wicked Statecraft and a cruel priestcraft have raised amongst brethren, we have met here to-night. Let no conclave of archdeacons or Committee of Laymen imagine that we shall ever be turned aside from the accomplishment of our objects by any amount of misrepresentation. (Hear, hear.) Our forefathers fought this battle single-handed, and inch by inch and foot by foot they won from the hand of arbitrary power in Church and State that heritage of free thought, open speech, and manly self-reliance in which we as Englishmen rejoice this day, and which gives our country a pre-eminence amongst the nations of the world. (Cheers.) We are the sons of these men, not merely because we hallow their memories, but because we too have earned for ourselves a freedom in this sacred guild. There are men amongst us who have disenthralled the slave, expunged from the statute book civil disabilities for religious belief, unfettered trade and industry and the navigation of the seas—and these are not the men to quail before the spirit of the genius of monopoly in religion—though they have departed from every other stronghold to take a last refuge in this sanctuary of human thought and action. (Hear, hear.) Let us carry on this controversy, as I hope we shall, with no bitterness. (Hear.) Let us indulge in no personal attacks and no recriminations of those who differ from us. (Hear, hear.) Our cause is too good and our arguments too powerful to allow us to resort to

such expedients. (Hear.) We believe that though our success may be delayed yet it will be certain to arrive, because we know that the object we have in view is in harmony with all that is great and progressive in the movements of the day and the history of the country. (Cheers.) I shall now call upon Mr. Handel Cosham to propose the first resolution.

Mr. HANDEL COSHAM, of Bristol, moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting rejoices that, notwithstanding all the assaults of the adherents of Church Establishments, the Liberation Society has during the last three years carried on its operations with undiminished vigour, and has greatly increased the number of its supporters; and while it regrets the inadequate results of recent efforts in Parliament to advance the principle of religious equality, its regret is exceeded by gratification that those principles have been forced into a prominence highly conducive to their ultimate triumph.

He was very anxious that this discussion should be carried on without bitterness or rancour. He would never sit in judgment upon the conscience of any man, and must declare his conviction that there were in the Church of England not a few of the best of men, though among them were men strongly opposed to the movements of this society. He could not therefore speak of such individuals with disrespect, and hoped that the whole of this discussion would be carried on in a spirit that would enable us to ask and to expect the blessing of God upon the movement. He was not a prophet, but he thought he saw clearly enough that ecclesiastical reform would be one of the foremost questions of the future in Parliament, especially as he was convinced that at no distant day the Liberal party would be on the Opposition benches, and that not because the country was not sound, but because its leaders were not sound. And when they were on the shady side of the House, they would announce a programme, and the work this association was doing would oblige them to make ecclesiastical reform a prime feature in it. This society was doing a work on which the great Liberal party would have to stand; and the time was coming when it would be felt that a tax on conscience was even a more serious evil than a tax upon corn, and when the existing ecclesiastical monopoly would be done away; and when that period should arrive the name of Mr. Miall would be identified with it in honour as those of Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright had been with the repeal of the corn laws. The Evangelical clergy owed much to Dissenters; and in fact they could not occupy their position in the Church if they had not the moral support of Dissenters to fall back upon. A hundred and fifty years ago the Nonconformists made enormous sacrifices by giving their support to the Evangelical party in the Church when Popery was sought to be established by King James; and there could be no doubt that under similar circumstances they would do so again on the ground of Protestantism; and it was ungenerous for Churchmen to mount up by means of the Dissenters and then to kick away the ladder and abuse them for having put it up. (Hear, hear.) He wholly disclaimed any desire to injure the Episcopal Church as a Church, for he was anxious for it to be enlarged and strengthened as a religious institution.

The Rev. R. W. DALE, of Birmingham, said: Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I greatly regret that I have not been able to attend the conferences which have been held yesterday and to-day in connection with the triennial meeting of the Liberation Society, partly because I am unable now from personal knowledge to give such testimony to the character of these proceedings as I should be glad to give when I meet my friends down in the country. There is an opinion amongst many excellent persons belonging to the Establishment that this society has been formed on the model supplied by Ignatius Loyola and his most marvellous institution. If we are to accept the estimates that are publicly made by members of the Church of England of the ability, the subtlety, and the vigour with which the proceedings of this society are conducted, you must be an immense number of members, a great crowd of men with an amount of genius which the world has hardly ever seen rivalled and scarcely ever surpassed. (Laughter.) It is affirmed that by some means or other, silently and secretly, you are able to touch hidden springs by which the people of this country from end to end are most powerfully affected and moved. They cannot touch your working, but they see its issues and results. They cannot expose your policy, but they see what that policy achieves, and of course, if this be true, we shall be altogether unable to form anything like an adequate impression of the nature of your proceedings from the reports which will appear in Mr. Miall's paper to-morrow, and in his pages the day after. It is not likely, if this is the character of your Liberation Society, that you will show the cards in your hands. You will have one account for the public—the other account will be quietly hidden from the public. I have not had the opportunity of seeing this marvellous machinery in operation. I regret I had not the opportunity of looking on those men who are invested with this extraordinary and unparalleled power. However, I believe the great springs and influences which the Liberation Society really commands are of a different order altogether from those which are attributed to us by our critics. I believe the real explanation of the effect which the Liberation Society are said to produce upon public movements in this country is that there is something deep down in the heart of Englishmen that responds to your appeal. (Cheers.) The great element of your power is this, that the old English spirit is after all on your side, and above all things in this age of increasing religious activity, there must be a conviction deepening and strengthening in the hearts of hundreds of thousands of our countrymen who stand aloof from our public movements, that the true way of serving Christ is to serve him with a true heart and loving spirit under the control of his own laws, and not under the compulsory influence of any human Government. (Cheers.) I beg to offer this as an explanation to the members of the Church Defence Associations all over the country, who envy your genius and who would be glad to copy your machinery in order that they may rival your results. (Hear, hear.) I should have been glad to have been present because I should have had a fuller impression than I can now possess of the interesting character of the work which has been done by the society during the last three years. I am quite sure indeed that, whatever may have been said in any formal report presented to the

Conference, that the full amount of the work done by the Liberation Society cannot have been clearly laid before you. In a man's life a vast deal of what he does cannot be written in a biography. There are a great many slight actions which, day by day, tend to give certain features to his character and to infuse certain elements into his moral and social influence which cannot afterwards be recovered and cannot be recalled, and so there are a thousand things done by this society or its agents month after month of the year through which cannot be put into a report. You cannot tabulate these things. They have been done and cannot be recalled; and I have had opportunities during the last year or two in Birmingham to see the amount of work which the agents of the Liberation Society have been doing from time to time, and I can frankly declare that the knowledge I have derived both of the spirit in which this work is done, of the character of the work itself, and of the ability with which, at any rate, in our neighbourhood, this work is carried on, has greatly strengthened my faith in the Liberation Society, and my desire for its prosperity. (Cheers.) I feel intensely anxious that in conducting this great movement the Liberation Society should have written across its whole polity, and not merely at the head of its constitution, that solitary principle for the promotion of which it was founded. It is not the business of this society to criticise theological parties; it is not the business of this society to discuss questions of ecclesiastical polity, it is not the business of the society to investigate the ordinary machinery which Christian churches may establish in order to work out the same results, and for which they have been instituted, and I believe that their true strength will lie in adhering constantly and inviolably to the one principle for which the society was instituted, namely, the liberation of religion from State patronage and control. (Cheers.) I believe that all the complications and difficulties into which from time to time we Nonconformists are getting, arise very largely from the fact that that principle has not so firm a hold upon us as I ardently wish it had. I am quite certain that the difficulties which gather round the Liberation Society will be infinitely multiplied by every departure on the part of one of its representatives from that fundamental principle on which it rests. (Hear, hear.) Of course it is very difficult when one stands on a Liberation platform to avoid discussing a great many questions in connexion with the present position of the English Church. One can produce very often a great popular impression by resorting to vigorous and truthful statements of the controversies by which the Church of England is at this moment agitated; but what we gain in immediate impression, is, I believe, lost in the long run, and our true wisdom is to keep to the one point,—that whatever the Church be, whether she be the home of all truth and the temple of all godliness, our concern is to liberate her from the power of the State, and the better she is the more reason for giving her liberty. (Cheers.) By pursuing this policy we shall prevent this great movement from being confounded with the special principles and special interests of any religious sect, and I think it equally important that we should endeavour to make it felt that this movement is not identified with any particular political party. (Hear, hear.) We are not working into the hands of any religious sect, nor ought it to be our object to work into the hands of any political confederation. (Hear, hear.) I believe there is a better thing coming than that which Mr. Cosham has ventured just now to prophesy. He has told us that the time was coming when the Liberal party would have to go to the shady side of the House of Commons, and in order to recover their position and power in this country they would take care to place in their programme some of the objects which, as a Liberation Society, we are anxious to secure. No doubt, that may happen; but I believe a far greater and nobler thing than that should be striven for. We ought not to be dependent upon the vacillations and vicissitudes of any political party whatsoever. (Cheers.) And I confess that the apparent defeats which have been, referred to, instead of disheartening me, appear to be the cause of mutual congratulation to-night. (Hear, hear.) I believe the time is coming when we shall have a new party altogether—(Hear, hear)—when a political party will come forward who will not take up our questions as mere conveniences from time to time in order to find their way back to the Treasury Bench, but who shall take our questions as their programme. (Cheers.) It is for that which I believe in my heart we should strive. We should set our eyes upon that, and work gradually and steadily towards it. (Hear, hear.) Let me say that the remarks which have been made by Mr. Cosham in reference to the spirit in which this controversy ought to be conducted appear to me to be deserving of continual reiteration, and we shall best serve the great ends we desire to secure by practically manifesting the spirit which has been inculcated upon us that we ought to engage in this controversy with a sincere and hearty, and not merely a feigned and publicly professed, respect both for the intellect and for the heart of those with whom we deal. It may appear a very simple matter to us that Christian churches ought to be sustained by the free, unforced services of Christian men; but do not forget that for many centuries the great Christian churches have been accustomed to regard it as an elementary principle that Kings should patronise the Church, and that the Church is feeble and inglorious without their public support. And we all know that we derive many of our strongest and deepest convictions not from free and fair investigation—we cannot rest them all at a moment's notice on an elaborate and satisfactory line of argument—we have got them from the very atmosphere that we breathe—they have been brought unto us by a thousand subtle means that we cannot trace. If this is true of us, it is also true of our brethren on the other side, and do not forget the great and overwhelming power of the influences which are likely to secure the imagination and the hearts of the members of the English Church for the Establishment to which they belong. I myself feel the power of those influences now deeply and strongly, and it is only the firmness and the depth of my conviction that for a Church to rest on the patronage of a throne is to do dishonour to the Lord Jesus Christ that prevents me yielding to those strong currents of feeling which are all disturbed when I think of the great men and the history—inglorious in many respects, but most splendid and sublime in other respects—of that Church from which we separated. I feel the

power myself of all these influences in spite of my strong convictions that the Establishment is not of harmony with the principles of the New Testament, and I cannot wonder, therefore, that those who have not had the opportunities which I have had for many years of coming to my convictions about the principles of Voluntaryism should be bound hand and foot by those influences. (Applause.) Our respect, I say, should be for their judgment as well as for their heart. It will not do to speak of those on the other side as though they were a set of simpletons, nor will it do to talk as though our principles were so necessarily self-evident that no argument was required to sustain them, or as though there were no case to be made on behalf of the principles that we are opposing. I am sure a foolish confidence of this kind would be likely to ensure a most shameful and inglorious defeat. It is not, depend upon it, merely by showy speeches on public platforms from time to time that we shall be able to work this movement to a successful issue. I foresee that there will be required a protracted and laborious intellectual effort on the part of the representatives of Voluntaryism throughout the country if this movement is ever to be made triumphant. (Hear, hear.) I feel that Mr. Miall, in his admirable book of the "Title Deeds of the Church of England," has justly suggested to all who are capable of such inquiries a line of study which they are bound, if they love Voluntaryism, and desire to see it triumphant, with great painstaking to pursue. This question has manifold aspects. There is room here for profound theologians to exhaust their learning—there is room for philosophers to exhaust all their acuteness—there is room for great scholars to do their best in order to gather about their principles that support it may derive from the learning of former times, and we must calmly and deliberately determine that this work shall be done. It is not merely in the lobby of the House of Commons, or on the hustings, or on the platform of Liberation Societies' meetings, that we are called upon to work. If we wish to do our part wisely, faithfully, and well, studious men in their closets as well as eloquent men in public must give their aid to the principles before we hope that they will be successful. (Applause.) Let me say I am also very anxious that we should increasingly make it felt that on the part of a great many of us at any rate this question is not one of political effects, but of spiritual life. I am not intending to criticise the force of that argument which may be found for Voluntaryism in the abstract principles of political science. I will not touch that question. But I confess for myself that by far the most satisfactory and conclusive arguments to sustain the position we assume are to be found in the New Testament, and in the history of ecclesiastical life; and we have suffered lately, perhaps, in the good opinion and sympathy of large numbers of devout and earnest Christian people through not remembering this more. They have got to call that other party, you know, the spiritually-minded Dissenters. I must protest against what is implied in such a distinction between ourselves and our Nonconformist brethren, who do not work with us in the Liberation Society. It is not for us on the platform to attempt to vindicate ourselves from the implied calumny which that epithet conveys. We cannot condescend to bring forward proofs and arguments in order to repel that insinuation, but I do earnestly beg of you to take care that there shall not appear even the appearance of a ground for such an insinuation as that. I am anxious to vindicate and sustain the principles of Voluntaryism from the same motives and precisely in the same spirit by which I wish to be ruled in the pulpit, and our strength lies very much, I believe, in that direction, and whatever may be the temporary vicissitudes through which we may have to pass, believing our principles are really in harmony with the very mind of God—that for the complete triumph of the Christian Church it is necessary that these principles should be recognised—we can look forward with hearts full of calmness and quietness to the future which lies before the Church. We are not the only society which has been visited with these vicissitudes. All great causes have known them in times gone by. The only danger which it appears to me attaches to positions of the kind in which it is supposed we are at present placed is this—that men are likely to get bitter when for a moment they are disappointed and are likely to turn railing upon those who rail at them, but let us earnestly call on that Divine help we require to sustain our position with calmness and Christian forbearance, amidst the storm of antagonism which has been provoked, in the certainty that our principles shall be ultimately successful. (Cheers.) I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The Rev. JOHN GRAHAM, of Craven Chapel, said that this was his first appearance on the platform of the Liberation Society, for he was one of those quiet pastors whose attention was mainly given to the affairs of their own flocks, but who strengthened the Liberation Society by building up churches on the Voluntary principle, and thus gave tangible proofs that the aid of the State was not necessary for the maintenance of religious institutions. He had come to the meeting from the desk where he had been engaged in writing the funeral sermon of Mr. Edward Swaine, who was an earnest friend of this society, and one of the most estimable of men. A good deal had been said of late about "spiritually-minded Dissenters," and "rabid and violent Dissenters"; and it was in consequence of this that he was present at this meeting. He supposed that he would himself be called a "moderate Dissenter," but if moderation implied indifference to the principles of this society, he never wished to earn the title. He was a Dissenter from conviction, having fought his way out of the Established Church. The resolution which he had been requested to move was as follows:—

That this meeting expresses profound admiration of the fidelity to conscience exhibited by the 2,000 godly clergymen who, in 1662, abandoned their positions in the English Establishment rather than comply with the requirements of the Act of Uniformity. That in the passing of that Act, and other persecuting enactments which followed, this meeting sees the natural result of the assumption by the State of the right to exercise authority in matters of religion, and it therefore expresses earnest hope that the attention now being drawn to the events of the Ejection, will be the means of advancing in a marked degree the principles of this society.

The resolution spoke of 2,000 godly clergymen, and he rejoiced to think that there were twice the number now in the Church of England who merited the name Evangelical. He would not call any of them "rabid," though they might belong to the Church Defence Association: for was it not possible for a man to have a

beam in his eye which cast a shadow that he mistook for the mote in the eye of another? (Laughter.) He rejoiced in the celebration of the fidelity to conscience of the 2,000 clergymen whose shining light along the line of history, cheered and braced the souls of men 200 years after they had gone to their rest. (Cheers.) He did not presume to judge any man, but could not comprehend how it was that the Evangelical clergy reconciled to their consciences the act of subscription. It had been a stumbling block to him twenty years ago, and drove him into moderate dissent. But without making any charge against them, he held that we ought to celebrate the bicentenary of the Nonconformists of 1662; for we never could repay them for the benefits which they conferred upon us. It would be well also for the churches, in which there were a great many moderate Dissenters who required to be brought face to face with Howe and Owen and Baxter and others of the noble men of two hundred years ago. (Hear, hear.) There were a good many elegant young persons in our churches who admired polish more than solidity, and sentiment more than truth, and they would never do anything for God in the world until all this was changed, and they had become men of principle. (Hear, hear.) This movement was happily calculated to put bones into many weak bodies. (Hear, hear.) Then further, Nonconformists owed this celebration to the spiritually minded of the clergy of the Church of England, who would themselves feel, when it was over, that a great benefit had been conferred upon them. (Hear, hear.) He believed that the friends of this society felt no sort of animosity towards the Church of England, and only desired that it should become purer and stronger as a religious institution. And assuredly separated from the State it would become more powerful than at present, and the fires of Christian love and zeal in the Church would melt out whole mines of wealth. After some further observations, Mr. Graham resumed his seat amid loud cheers.

The Rev. H. W. PARKINSON, in seconding the resolution, said he heartily rejoiced at seeing so large a meeting, and in being able to congratulate them on having gone through one more year of not disheartening labour. For himself, he was not a "moderate Dissenter," but one of those so-called "political Dissenters,"—a name given to them, he supposed, because they were ready, in season and out of season, to testify to their principles. He rejoiced in the Bicentenary movement because he thought the effect of it would be to enable Dissenters better to understand their principles, and to hold them more firmly. They seemed to have got into a very charitable mood on the present occasion, to which he did not object; but let it not be forgotten that the main point at issue was the difficulty of reconciling subscription with perfect honesty. It had been argued at the Conference that circumstances to a great extent made men; but let it be remembered that they lived in a world where men very largely made circumstances. If ever there were inducements for men to be Conformists, they prevailed in 1662, but the 2,000 forsook them all rather than violate their consciences, and he ventured to say that if the Evangelical clergy came out of the Church now, they would be received with open arms by the friends of that society.

The Rev. J. KILSBY JONES moved a resolution expressive of approval that the committee had determined to avail themselves of the favourable opportunity presented by many concurrent events, both in and out of the Establishment, of enforcing the society's principles by means of numerous publications and public lectures.

WILLIAM EDWARDS, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

The Rev. JOSEPH FLETCHER, of Christchurch, moved, and the Rev. Dr. THOMAS, of Pontypool, seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

THE QUALIFICATION FOR OFFICES ABOLITION BILL, which Mr. Hadfield has so often carried through the Commons, will come on for second reading in the Lords on Tuesday evening next, the Church-rate Bill occupying the attention of the Commons at the following day's sitting.

NONCONFORMIST COLONY IN NEW ZEALAND.—On Thursday evening last, May 1st, a third social gathering of London members and friends of the Nonconformist colony in New Zealand was held at Shaftesbury-hall, Aldersgate-street. After partaking of tea, a meeting was held, at which F. J. Sargood, Esq., presided, and several addresses were delivered, including one from the Rev. S. Edgar, who has undertaken to become the pastor of the church which will be formed upon the arrival of the emigrants at New Zealand. A pleasant and cheerful spirit seemed to prevail throughout the meeting, and all present seemed to be nourishing that Christian tone of mind which they will be called upon to exhibit in their new home. The proceedings were enlivened by some musical friends who were present, and who entertained the meeting with a selection of suitable music, under the direction of Mr. Cook Baines.

Religious Intelligence

EXHIBITION UNITED SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.—The following ministers preached at St. James's Hall on Sunday last:—morning, Rev. John Pillans; afternoon, Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B.; evening, Rev. W. Brock. Next Sunday the services will be taken by the Revs. Dr. Tidman, John Graham, and Francis Tucker respectively.

CHESHIRE COUNTY UNION.—The annual meetings of the above association were held in Hyde on Thursday, the 24th April. The meeting for business was held in Zion Chapel, Joseph Thompson, Esq., of Bowden, presiding. Grants to the several churches receiving aid were renewed or withdrawn, and new stations were taken up. In addition to this a petition was signed, to be presented to the House of Lords, in favour of Mr. Hadfield's "Qualification for Offices Abolition Bill." In the evening

a Bicentenary meeting was held in Union-street Chapel; the speakers and subjects were as follows.—Rev. A. Clarke, of Stockport, on "The State of the Church before 1662;" Rev. S. W. McAll, M.A., of Macclesfield, on "The Ejection;" Rev. C. Chapman, M.A., of Chester, on "Reasons for Commemorating the Ejection;" and the Rev. W. Urwick, M.A., Hatherton, on "Lessons for the Living from the Illustrious Dead." Alderman Sunderland, of Ashton, occupied the chair. From want of time Mr. Urwick was unable to proceed with his address, but delivered it in the form of a lecture in the Hyde-lane School-room on Tuesday evening, the 29th. On Thursday evening, the 17th April, the Rev. H. Gavin delivered a lecture in the Hyde-lane School, Hyde, on "Early Nonconformity; or, Glimpes of History before 1662."

SION NEW BAPTIST CHAPEL, YORKSHIRE-STREET, BURNLEY.—On Good Friday, the foundation-stone of the new Baptist chapel, Yorkshire-street, was laid by John Houghton, Esq., of Kirkdale, Liverpool. The preliminary proceedings were conducted in the Old Chapel, in consequence of the unfavourable state of the weather. A platform was erected, on which were J. Houghton, Esq., Rev. C. Williams (Acorington), Rev. A. Strachan, Rev. J. Stroyan, Rev. R. Evans. After the arrival of the Rev. H. Stowell Brown, of Liverpool, between three and four o'clock, a number of ministers and gentlemen ascended the platform with him. The proceedings were commenced by singing, after which the Rev. R. Evans read a portion of Scripture, and the Rev. A. Strachan engaged in prayer. Another hymn was then sung, followed by a long address by Mr. Houghton. The Rev. H. S. Brown was announced to deliver his address after laying of the foundation-stone, but, as the rain continued, it was concluded to have the address first. Mr. Brown then spoke in his usual interesting and excellent style for a considerable time, and at the close the ceremony of laying the stone took place. A splendid silver trowel and a mahogany mallet were presented to J. Houghton, Esq. After the ceremony a tea party was held in the school, and at six o'clock a public meeting in the Old Chapel. L. Whittaker, Esq., of Haslingden, presided, and a number of ministers of the town and neighbourhood took part in the meeting. The total number of sittings on the ground and gallery floors of the chapel is for 750 adults, and the estimated cost will be 1,549l., exclusive of old materials, which are valued at 162l. 10s.

NEW INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, PRESTON.—The Bairstow-street Independent schools, Preston, the foundation stone of which was laid in August last by Mr. Councillor Teale, were formally opened on Good Friday. They are intended for the use of the Congregationalists worshipping in Cannon-street, under the pastorate of the Rev. A. Reed, B.A., and are very complete, containing a large lecture-hall, and an infant class-room for 120 children. The total cost has been 2,400l. On occasion of the opening a sermon was preached in Cannon-street Chapel by the Rev. Dr. Raffles, from Liverpool, with his accustomed eloquence. At the close of the discourse a collection was made, amounting to 17l. A bazaar was held in one of the ante-rooms on the basement floor during the day. A dinner was afterwards given in the infants' class-room. There were present, amongst other gentlemen, the Rev. R. Slate, the Rev. A. Reed, the Rev. Dr. Spence, the Rev. Dr. Raffles, the Rev. R. Dawson, the Mayor of Halifax, Dr. Bell, Messrs. T. Simpson, F. Cotman, G. Teale, W. Brown, Aston, Richard, Kirkham, &c. The public meeting was held in Cannon-street Chapel, the spacious assembly-room not being able to hold all who wished to be present. The chair was taken by J. Crossley, Esq., the Mayor of Halifax. The Revs. Dr. Spence, R. Dawson, A. Reed, G. W. Clapham, Mr. George Melly, of Liverpool, and other gentlemen, addressed the meeting. Several donations were handed to the Chairman in aid of the fund, "the last 50l. that might be required" being offered by the Mayor of Halifax; and the meeting was concluded with various votes of thanks.

ENGLISH CHAPEL-BUILDING SOCIETY.—The quarterly meeting of the committee of the above society was held in the vestry of West Clayton-street Chapel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday, the 28th ult., at half-past six p.m., and on Tuesday, the 29th, at ten a.m.; John Crossley, Esq., of Halifax, in the chair. The committee were occupied for some time in carefully examining the financial position of the society, more especially in relation to the extraordinary work occasioned by the Bicentenary Commemoration. Very numerous as were the cases presented to the attention of the committee, amounting in all to eighty (in addition to the twenty-eight previously adopted for this year), the committee were resolved not to vote any pecuniary aid till assured of additional resources to enable them to meet their engagements when due. When the committee commenced business they knew of only 1,850l. definitely promised or paid to the society, in addition to the ordinary income, in aid of the extra work of the Bicentenary Commemoration. But at the committee meeting 3,150l. more was promised, making the present additional income in aid of the extra work of the society 5,000l. As this sum brought up the society's assets beyond its previous liabilities, the committee felt justified in voting 1,930l. additional in aid of the following ten cases, viz.:—Bishop's Waltham, Hants; Cheriton, Hants; Fairford, Gloucestershire; Hertford; Melbourn, Cambs; Norwich; Leicester; Shrewsbury; West Ashling, Sussex; Shipley, Staffordshire. Agreeably to the express direction of the donors, the larger portion of the above 1,930l. was voted in the form of loans, to be advanced on personal security,

and to be repaid in equal annual instalments, without interest, spread over ten years. The Loan Fund now amounts to 8,000*l*. The aim of the committee is to see it brought up to 20,000*l*.; and they indulge the earnest hope that this may be one of the fruits of the great Bicentenary commemoration, which it is worth remembering that this society was the first to bring before our churches. This society has now voted aid in the erection of 158 chapels (of which thirty-eight are memorial chapels), and has still before it seventy more cases, most of which the committee are prepared to adopt, immediately the requisite additional means are generously supplied. The committee have adopted a new and shorter form of trust-deed, which will be immediately printed. They have also agreed to issue a second edition of the "Practical Hints on Chapel Building," enlarged and illustrated. A public meeting was held in St. James's Chapel on the evening of the 29th, which was numerously attended, and addressed by the secretary and other friends of the society.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The forty-eighth annual meeting of the above Union was held in Walsall on Tuesday and Wednesday, 23rd and 24th April. On Tuesday evening a public meeting was held in the Bradford-street Congregational Church, when addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. Cooke, of Uttoxeter, on "Congregational Principles," R. Ann, of Handsworth, on the "Bicentenary Celebration," with special reference to the ejected ministers of South Staffordshire; and J. G. Jukes, of West Bromwich, on "Spiritual Destitution in South Staffordshire." S. S. Mander, Esq., of Wolverhampton, presided.—On Wednesday morning a meeting for prayer was held in Bridge-street School-room, which was numerously attended.—The annual assembly of the Union was held in Bridge-street School-room at half-past nine; R. S. Hudson, Esq., of West Bromwich, in the chair. There was a numerous attendance of ministers and delegates from the churches of the county. We learn from statements read by the general secretary and the treasurer, that the income for the year was about 120*l*., and that the various churches and stations aided by the Union presented on the whole encouraging reports as to their state and prospects, though some of them had suffered and were suffering severely from the present depression of trade. Reference was also made to the scheme for supporting a town missionary in Bilston which has led to the formation of an evangelistic association in connexion with the Union, which would employ missionaries and Bible women in the more populous and spiritually destitute parts of the county. These agents, employed by the association, are intended to carry the Gospel to the people by means of preaching in rooms, cottage services, and house-to-house visitation. The amount promised towards this object is a little short of 150*l*. per annum, in addition to the ordinary income of the Union. A resolution, having reference to the "Bicentenary celebration," was moved by T. Bantock, Esq., of Wolverhampton, and seconded by Mr. E. Robinson, of West Bromwich: It recommended that, as part of such celebration, the pastors and churches of the Union promote by special subscriptions and collections the following objects:—1st. The Evangelistic Association that has been formed in connection with the County Union. 2nd. Contributions in aid of the Pastors' Retiring Fund; and 3rd., the erection of new chapels in the county. The meeting also recommended that deputations be appointed to visit the churches of the Union, in order to diffuse information, to explain the nature of the proposed celebration, to awaken interest in the subject, and to obtain subscriptions in aid of the objects commended to the liberality of the churches. This resolution was unanimously adopted, and arrangements will at once be made to carry it into effect. An excellent dinner was provided for ministers and delegates at the George Hotel. It was announced by the Secretary of the Union (the Rev. J. Whewell, of West Bromwich) that already more than 1,100*l*. had been promised towards the Bicentenary celebration, that the hope was cherished that 3,000*l*. would be raised, and that there were two very favourable openings for the erection of new chapels. In the evening an impressive and eloquent sermon was preached in Bridge-street Chapel by the Rev. R. D. Wilson, of Birmingham.

OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Our second Great International Exhibition was opened at South Kensington on Thursday, with all befitting ceremony, and with even more than hoped-for success. Everything happened as it was arranged and expected, with all but the regularity of clock-work. The weather was favourable, and public curiosity was intense. The day indeed had but one dark shadow. Of the hundreds of thousands who lined the streets and thronged the building, few forgot the Prince by whom the great work of the day was encouraged and helped on—who sowed, but reaped not; and many were the kindly and regretful words spoken of the Royal lady who would have been so gladly welcomed, and who on Thursday was so sorely missed. The absence of the Queen, and the cause of that absence, marred the State pageant, and produced a partial gloom which an impressive and imposing ceremonial could not wholly dispel.

Between eleven and twelve o'clock the great mass of distinguished visitors began to reach South Kensington. Of the earlier arrivals, the majority had been persons not in any official position, and the ladies by whom they were accompanied, having by some inscrutable but nearly universal instinct selected white dresses, bonnets, or shawls, the cortège wore

greatly the aspect of a long-drawn wedding procession. But the character of the scene was changed when bright and showy uniforms, and liveries hardly less gaudy, came glittering down the line. In all the varied and gorgeous colourings of French, Austrian, Russian, Bavarian, Saxon, and other European Embassies, in the less dazzling, but still rich and diversified garb of private households, a rapid and bewildering succession of equipages swarmed up, to the western dome chiefly, and deposited their occupants. The Haytian Embassy and the Japanese Ambassadors were the objects of greatest interest to the spectators. At the western door also entered the civic procession, headed by the Lord Mayor, which left the Guildhall at half-past ten o'clock. The entrance in Cromwell-road had been reserved specially for the Royal Commissioners, for members of the British Royal family, and for other illustrious personages.

Shortly after half-past twelve o'clock the Duchess of Cambridge, the Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and the Princess Mary arrived and were received with a royal salute. On alighting they were met and conducted to their places by Earl Granville, the Duke of Buckingham, and others of the Exhibition Commissioners. At one o'clock precisely the carriages conveying the Royal Commissioners deputed by her Majesty to open the Exhibition reached the same entrance, having proceeded in procession from Buckingham Palace. The following was the order observed:—The Speaker of the House of Commons, Lord Palmerston, the Earl of Derby, the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Chancellor, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Duke of Cambridge. The Commissioners were received with military honours. Lord Palmerston descended from his carriage with difficulty, but no sooner had he alighted than he engaged in earnest conversation with the assembled Exhibition Commissioners. Recent suffering betrayed itself in Lord Derby's face, but there was not a trace of it in his manner or bearing. Immediately following the Royal Commissioners was a cortège, the mournful aspect of which impressed the spectators more deeply by its contrast with all that had gone on before. It was merely a file of carriages, driven at the same pace as all the rest; but the deep black liveries of the servants, and still more the associations connected with the event that was being celebrated, struck the minds of those who looked upon them as forcibly as ever did the slave's warning in the classic triumphs, or the *memento mori* of later times. In the Royal carriages were the Crown Prince of Prussia and Prince Oscar of Sweden, with their respective suites. The Crown Prince, who was very warmly cheered, wore the uniform of a Prussian General, the epaulets covered with crape. His Royal Highness wore the ribbon and jewel, and also the star, of the Order of the Garter.

The first scattered elements of the procession began to assemble in the South Court shortly before twelve. Mr. Fairbairn, Sir C. Dilke, the Duke of Buckingham, and Mr. Sandford were each in their places long before the appointed time, showing no traces of having been up the night before, and though not, at least, among the hardest of hard workers were Mr. Kelk and Messrs. C. and T. Lucas, probably the only three men in the kingdom who could have executed the huge work with which they were entrusted within the allotted time. To these, also, others, of not more importance, but greater magnificence, gave in fast. The Duke of Newcastle, the Duke of Buccleuch, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Lowe, Sir C. Wood, Mr. Gladstone, the Bishop of London, and the Lord Mayor came within a few minutes of each other. Then there was a pause, during which the personages in the embryo procession had nothing to do but to criticise the tinted marble statues sent by Gibson from Rome, which were right in front of them, and facing the great skeleton of Benson's half-finished clock. At half-past twelve o'clock all reserved seats left till then unoccupied were thrown open to the visitors. Lord Granville had been one of the first among the distinguished personages to enter the procession court, when he was most warmly welcomed, and congratulated upon the success so far of the great undertaking, to the completeness of which he has contributed so largely by his own untiring personal influence and exertions. Before his lordship left his house in Bruton-street he received a telegram from the Crown Prince of Prussia as follows: "My best wishes for the success of to-day's ceremony, and of the whole undertaking." At a quarter-past one a shrill blast from the trumpeters of the Life Guards, which pealed through the whole building, announced that the procession had begun to move. On each side of the nave, north and south, a wide space had been railed off, which served as a path through the dense crowd, and, turning to the left, the pageant moved towards the western dome, where the opening part of the ceremonial was to take place. The following was the order of the procession:—

Trumpeters of the Life Guards in State Uniforms.
Contractors' Superintendents.
Decorator, Draughtsman, Surveyor.
Superintendents of Exhibition Arrangements.
Her Majesty's Commissioners' Superintendents of Building Works.
Contractors and Architect.
Council of Horticultural Society, and Secretary.
Council of the Society of Arts, and Secretary.
Deputation of Ten Guarantors of the Exhibition.
Assistant Secretary to her Majesty's Commissioners for 1862.
Secretary of Finance Committee.
Financial Officer.
Members of the Building Committee, and Secretary.
Special Commissioner for Juries, and Secretary.
Chairmen of Juries.

The Right Hon. Lord Taunton, President of the Council of Chairmen of Juries.

Acting Commissioners for Colonies, Dependencies, &c.

Foreign Acting Commissioners.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow. The Lord Mayor of York.

The Lord Mayor of Dublin.

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Macebearer and Swordbearer of the City of London, preceding

The Right Hon. Wm. Cubitt, Lord Mayor of London.

G. J. Cockerell, Esq., W. H. Twentyman, Esq.,

Sheriffs of London and Middlesex.

Presidents of Foreign Commissions.

Her Majesty's Commissioners for 1851, and Secretary.

Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1862, and Secretary.

The Right Hon. the Earl Granville, K.G.

His Grace the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos.

Sir C. Wentworth Dilke, Bart.

Thomas Baring, Esq., M.P.

Thomas Fairbairn, Esq.

F. R. Sandford, Esq., Secretary.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of London,

Accompanied by the Rev. John Sinclair, M.A.,

the Archdeacon of Middlesex; and the Rev. W. J.

Irons, D.D., the Incumbent of the Parish.

Her Majesty's Ministers,

(Not being either Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1862, or Special Commissioners for the opening.)

The Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, President of the Poor-law Board.

The Right Hon. E. Cardwell, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Right Hon. Lord Stanley of Alderley, Postmaster-General.

The Right Hon. Thomas Milner Gibson, President of the Board of Trade.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

His Grace the Duke of Somerset, First Lord of the Admiralty.

The Right Hon. Sir Charles Wood, Bart., G.C.B., Secretary for India.

The Right Hon. Sir G. Cornwall Lewis, Bart., Secretary of State for War.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G., Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Right Hon. Earl Russell, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Right Hon. Sir G. Grey, Bart., G.C.B., Secretary of State for Home Department.

Her Majesty's Special Commissioners for the Opening.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, K.G.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Right Hon. the Lord Westbury, Lord High Chancellor.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.

The Right Hon. the Viscount Sidney, Lord Chamberlain.

The Right Hon. Viscount Palmerston, K.G., G.C.B.

The Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Royal Personages attending the Opening.

His Royal Highness the Prince Oscar of Sweden.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Prussia.

Gentlemen in attendance on Royal Personages.

Pipers of the Scots Fusilier Guards.

The Duke of Cambridge as he passed along was loudly cheered, and Lord Palmerston and Lord Derby, who on this occasion appeared in close conjunction, were also warmly received. On a raised dais under the western dome had been erected a magnificent canopy, and underneath were ranged chairs of State for the Queen's Commissioners—the Duke of Cambridge taking the centre, with the Prince of Prussia on his right and Prince Oscar of Sweden on his left. In the glittering crowd beneath were grouped together in a glowing mass every variety of uniform, and stretching away behind was the rich perspective of the nave, with the vast expanse of the densely-packed orchestra as a background—hidden at points by the obstructive trophies, but still visible and effective as a grand whole. But the brilliancy of the scene was not its chief interest. In that throng were gathered together some of the greatest names in the arts, sciences, and manufactures of the country. The various colonies and dependencies which carry England's Empire as a girdle round the earth were represented; and there, too, were the delegates of all great nations. In the persons of the Commissioners of 1851 the great exemplar of these peaceful contests was commemorated, and additional weight and solemnity were added to the occasion by the presence of the chief leaders of the State. When his Royal Highness and the other Commissioners had taken their seats, Earl Granville, who, and his colleagues, were grouped immediately in front of the dais, advanced, and handed to the Duke of Cambridge a long address, which he prefaced with a short speech. The address commenced by a touching allusion to the late Prince Consort, and went on to say:—

When we commenced our duties, and until a recent period, we ventured to look forward to the time when it might be our great privilege to address her Majesty in person this day, and to show her Majesty within these walls the evidence which this Exhibition affords of the soundness of the opinion originally entertained by his Royal Highness—evidence furnished alike by the increased extent of the Exhibition, by the eagerness with which all classes of the community have sought to take part in it, and by the large expenditure incurred by individual exhibitors for the better display of their produce and machinery. We can now only repeat the assurance of our sympathy with her Majesty in that bereavement which deprives this inaugural ceremony of her royal presence; and whilst bearing mournful testimony to the loss of that invaluable assistance which his Royal Highness was so ready at all times to extend to us, we have to offer the Queen our dutiful thanks for the interest evinced by her Majesty in this undertaking, by commanding your royal highness and your lordships to represent her Majesty on this occasion.

The address then briefly described the circumstances under which the present Exhibition arose, stated that the guarantee fund was 450,000*l*., and that the Commissioners of 1851 had placed at the disposal of

the present Commissioners a space of twenty-five acres on the Kensington-gore estate. The address proceeded—

The arrangement and design of the building is such that the exhibited articles have been generally arranged in three great divisions:—

1. Fine arts, in the galleries especially provided for that department.
2. Raw materials, manufactures, and agricultural machinery, in the main building and the eastern annexe.
3. Machinery requiring steam or water power for its effectual display, in the western annexe.

Within these divisions the classification adopted is in most respects similar to that employed in 1851, the British and colonial articles being kept separate from those sent by foreign countries, and each country having its own portion of the several departments allotted to it. The catalogues now presented by us for purpose of submission to her Most Gracious Majesty will be found to contain all the necessary particulars respecting the articles exhibited.

In the selection and arrangement of many of the more important branches of the Exhibition we have been materially assisted by the cordial co-operation and advice of persons of all ranks in various local, class, trade, and other committees, whose services we gratefully acknowledge.

Following the principle adopted in the case of the Exhibition of 1851, we have decided that prizes, in the form of medals, shall be given in all the classes of the Exhibition, except those in the Fine Arts Section; such medals, however, being of one kind only, namely, Rewards for Merit, without any distinction of degree. These medals will be awarded by juries appointed for the several classes, and composed of both British and foreign members.

In conclusion the address said:—

The articles now exhibited will show that the period which has elapsed since 1851, although twice interrupted by European wars, has been marked by a progress previously unexampled, in science, art, and manufacture.

It is our earnest prayer that the International Exhibition of 1862, now about to be inaugurated, and which it is our privilege to conduct, may form no unworthy link in that chain of International Exhibitions with which must ever be connected the honoured name of her Majesty's illustrious Consort.

It was at this point that the only *contretemps*—and it was but a slight one—occurred. Possibly there might have been a difficulty in telegraphing to Mr. Costa what was going on so far away from him; but, whatever was the cause, just as Lord Granville concluded his short speech, the orchestra at the other end began to sing "God save the Queen," and his lordship finished his address to the Commissioners with that accompaniment in the distance. The Duke of Cambridge, however, waited patiently until the music had ceased, and when the last notes died away read the following reply in a loud and clear voice, which was distinctly audible at a considerable distance:—

We cannot perform the duty which the Queen has done us the honour to commit to us as her Majesty's representatives on this occasion without expressing our heartfelt regret that this inaugural ceremony is deprived of her Majesty's presence by the sad bereavement which has overwhelmed the nation with universal sorrow. We share most sincerely your feelings of deep sympathy with her Majesty in the grievous affliction with which the Almighty has seen fit to visit her Majesty and the whole people of this realm. It is impossible to contemplate the spectacle this day presented to our view without being painfully reminded how great a loss we have all sustained in the illustrious Prince with whose name the first Great International Exhibition was so intimately connected, and whose enlarged views and enlightened judgment were conspicuous in his appreciation of the benefits which such undertakings are calculated to confer upon the country. We are commanded by the Queen to assure you of the warm interest which her Majesty cannot fail to take in this Exhibition, and of her Majesty's earnest wishes that its success may amply fulfil the intentions and expectations with which it was projected, and may richly reward the zeal and energy, aided by the cordial co-operation of distinguished men of various countries, by which it has been carried into execution. We heartily join in the prayer that the International Exhibition of 1862, beyond largely conducing to present enjoyment and instruction, will be hereafter recorded as an important link in the chain of International Exhibitions, by which the nations of the world may be drawn together in the noblest rivalry, and from which they may mutually derive the greatest advantages.

The procession was then re-formed, and, passing along the North side of the nave, it proceeded to the Eastern dome, where the special musical performances were arranged to take place. Each of the pieces is in its own way a masterpiece. The overture by M. Meyerbeer is rich in variety of expression, and appeals everywhere with the energy of genius to the soul as well as to the ear. The music applied by Dr. Sterndale Bennett to the ode by Mr. Tennyson which we published last week, produced a chorale of much musical value, and produced a great sensation. The admirable verses of Mr. Tennyson could hardly have been wedded to music in a more kindred spirit. The execution of the work was happily all that could have been wished. The freshest and truest part of the chorale was the rendering of the three lines that begin, "O ye the wise who think," and we may include in the praise also the preceding couplet. M. Auber's March, the other new contribution to the music of the day, was entirely graceful and pleasant. Of the performances of the band of 800, and the chorus of 2,000, praise cannot be too emphatic. Every word from the two thousand voices came forth clear and musical, the words and the music were one, and there was no need of books for those of the great audience who sat or stood anywhere within fair hearing distance.

After the conclusion of the special music the

Bishop of London, with much fervency of manner, read the following prayer:—

O Lord, we thank Thee for all the benefits Thou hast bestowed upon us: for our national prosperity, and the blessings given to each of us in our own homes. O Lord, we would call to mind on the solemn day that in Thy mercy Thou hast not forgotten judgment. Thou temperest our rejoicing with sorrow. Thou givest years for quiet enjoyment, and in a moment removest the blessings Thou hast lent us, when Thou seest that the trial is for our good. Grant us and all for whom we pray to remember how Thy hand has been upon us, and how this bright day, long joyfully looked forward to, has risen at last not without a dark cloud. Teach us, Lord, to bear our trials as the correction of a father's love, and grant us, following the examples Thou hast set before us, to work while life lasts, both more zealously and with more singleness of purpose as in Thy sight.

O Thou who of old didst create the heavens and the earth, and didst separate the dry land and the gathering together of the water, who didst cause the surface of our globe at first to bring forth abundantly of its hidden stores, and by Thy providence ever since have watched over and blessed its increase: O Thou who hast laid us wealth in the deep fountains of the earth and the secret caves of the sea: Thou who hast filled land and water and air with precious things that minister to man's enjoyment: look down, we beseech Thee, this day on us, who would dedicate these treasures to Thy service.

O Thou who at first didst form man's body, and breathe his nostrils the breath of life: who hast given him the seeing eye and the skilful hand, and all the endowments of reason and of taste: grant that we may consecrate all to Thee.

O Thou who hast assigned to all the various tribes of Earth the appointed place of their habitation, marking out for each its peculiar task; and yet hast encouraged men to go down to the sea in ships, and brave the dangers of the great waters, that they may bear the good things of one climate to another: bless that interchange of Thy gifts which we seek in this building to advance.

O Thou everlasting Father, who hast made of one blood all the nations that dwell on earth, remove all barriers that obstruct our union; look down upon this gathering from divers countries, and bless it to spread the Gospel of Thy Son.

O Thou eternal Son of God, the Prince of heaven, in whose heavenly kingdom they shall no more hurt nor destroy, for no evil passions there shall enter, foster amongst us we pray Thee all kindly arts of peace, banish from Earth all unholly strife, and stir the nations to a generous rivalry for good.

O Thou blessed Spirit of holiness and love, so rule our hearts that mankind may be united in one brotherhood through Jesus Christ, that as members one of another we may labour everywhere, each in his degree, to minister to the wants of all.

O God the Father, hear our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

After the close of the prayer the Hallelujah Chorus was sung more effectively perhaps than it was ever sung before, and with this the religious part of the ceremony came to a conclusion. The ceremony finally concluded at precisely three o'clock by the Duke of Cambridge declaring "the Exhibition was opened," an announcement which was of course received with prolonged applause. A Royal salute from an Armstrong battery in Hyde-park was, in fact, scarcely heard amidst the cheering. After inspecting the Picture Galleries, the Royal party left the building at a quarter past three, with even louder demonstrations of joy than had attended its arrival.

It is calculated that the total number in the interior on Thursday was not much short of 37,000 in all.

The visitors to the Exhibition on Friday numbered 32,596, the number present on the second day in 1851 being about 30,000. It is not stated what proportion were season-ticket holders.

The attendance has not since been so numerous, owing probably to the incomplete state of most of the courts. We must reserve our notice of the contents of the Exhibition till we have more space at our command.

LAMBETH ELECTION.—The poll took place on Saturday, and terminated in a very large majority for Mr. Doulton. The following are the numbers, as stated at the declaration of the poll on Monday by Mr. Onslow, the returning officer:—

Mr. F. Doulton	...	5,124
Mr. Sleight	...	754
Mr. Wilkinson	...	347

Mr. F. Doulton, therefore, had a majority of 4,370 over Mr. Sleight, and of 4,777 over Mr. Wilkinson. (Cheers.) It consequently became his duty to declare that Mr. F. Doulton had been elected one of the representatives of the borough of Lambeth. (Cheers.) Mr. F. Doulton was received with a burst of cheering. In the course of his address, he said that he had polled five to one in every district, and had the contest been prolonged he believed he might have been returned by a majority not of 5,000, but of 10,000. He denied that his success was due to any elaborate organisation or lavish expenditure. Every penny of his expenses would appear in the accounts of the auditor, and it would be seen that in proportion to the number of votes his outlay did not exceed, and was probably less than that of the other two candidates. He would go to the House of Commons that afternoon as a free and independent member, as the representative not of any exclusive interest, but of all classes in the borough. (Cheers.) He was about to enter a very critical assembly, where an indiscreet word or irregular act might bring discredit on himself and on his constituency. He hoped therefore they would patiently permit him to learn the rules and customs of the House before he expressed his views on the great public questions which especially interested the borough. (Cheers.) Mr. Sleight also addressed the meeting.

Postscript.

Wednesday, May 8:

This morning's papers contain little news of special importance, and we have space only to summarise its leading items. Yesterday evening the venerable King of the Belgians was a little better, but his great age is against him. The members of the late Prussian Parliament have almost all been re-elected, with notable exceptions—M. Von der Heydt, the Minister of Finance, and other Ministers, being ejected. Such leaders as Baron Vincke and M. Simson return to lend the weight of their experience and reputation to the Chamber. The election results in a complete triumph of constitutionalism. In Austria the Government has given up "the principle of intervention in foreign affairs;" to which the world may respond, "Thank you for nothing." On the Turkish frontier the sturdy Montenegrins appear to be too much for Omer Pacha and his ill-appointed troops.

The telegraphic news in anticipation of the American mail of April 25th is very meagre. M. Mercier has returned from Richmond to Washington, and it is said that a British agent has also gone to the capital of Secession. Confederate resistance is carried to a great length. The Southern journals announce that the Federals commenced the bombardment of Fort Jackson, below New Orleans, on the 23rd ult. One thousand shells had fallen in the fort. The Confederates think that the ammunition of the Federals must soon fail. The bombardment continued at last accounts, but New Orleans is evidently a hard nut to crack. The Confederates have cut through the Levee on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi, thereby flooding the country for forty miles to prevent the advance of General Pope's force by land, and that general has returned to General Halleck's head-quarters at Pittsburg Landing, where the entire army of the West is being concentrated with the prospect of another engagement.

The Confederates are reported to be actively engaged in constructing vessels at Norfolk. Four new gunboats are said to have been already launched, but the Federals are now getting the preponderance in iron-clad vessels. Fort Wright, on the Mississippi, seventy-eight miles above Memphis, is found to be strongly guarded by fourteen Confederate gunboats.

The *Richmond Examiner* says:—"The Federals have mounted guns within 1,000 yards of the Confederate position at Yorktown."

It is reported that the Federal government in their new slave trade treaty concede the principle of the right of search.

From Mexico, we learn that the French were advancing on the capital, but that the Spaniards (this is the *American* version) would not follow them.

The House of Commons at yesterday's morning sitting threw out Mr. McMahon's County Courts Procedure Bill.

Yesterday the Duke of Devonshire was formally installed as High Steward of the University.

The *Daily News* announces that the leading manufacturers of Lancashire decline to sanction a national subscription for the distressed operatives, but should the pressure become very severe they would rather take measures for raising money on the security of the poor-rates.

Yesterday 11,351 persons visited the International Exhibition. Many of the principal "trophies" or eyesores in the nave are to be removed, including the toy exorcism.

MARK LANE—YESTERDAY.

The fresh arrivals of English wheat to this morning's market were very small, yet the trade was in a sluggish state for all qualities, at fully Monday's decline in the quotations. There was a fair average show of samples of foreign wheat. All descriptions sold heavily, at barely Monday's prices. Floating cargoes of grain were in slow request, on about former terms. The barley trade was in a sluggish state, and the currencies had a drooping tendency. Good and fine malt was firm as to price; but inferior qualities commanded very little attention. The oat trade was in a sluggish state, yet no quotable change took place in prices. Beans and peas were in short supply, and fair request, at full quotations. All kinds of flour sold heavily, at about previous rates.

THE LATE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.—The official report on the Brighton Review has been published. Lord Clyde, whilst paying a well-deserved compliment to the Volunteers assembled on that occasion, speaks more guardedly than might have been anticipated. He deals very much in general terms, but still there is sufficient in the report to confirm the opinion previously expressed, that the review was a decided success.

LANCASHIRE DISTRESS.—An influential deputation had an interview on Friday with Mr. Villiers, the President of the Poor-Law Board, on the subject of the distress in Lancashire. Colonel Wilson Patten having described the destitution prevailing, pointed out the inadequacy of the poor-law to meet it, and the stringency of the conditions on which relief was administered. Mr. Villiers explained the provisions of the order for regulating out-door relief, and said if the guardians deemed it expedient to depart from any of these regulations, they could do so if they reported the departure to the Poor-Law Board within twenty-one days, and the relief given in the meantime would be lawful. He suggested that the matter should be left at present in the hands of the guardians, who were doing their duties very efficiently.

THE MIALI TESTIMONIAL.

The PRESENTATION will take place at FREEMASONS' HALL, THIS EVENING, at a SOIREE, held at Six o'clock.
TICKETS, 2s. each.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Thomas Roberts," "H," "A Consistent Nonconformist," and "A Nonconformist."—We have no space for their communications.

"Russet Elliot," reluctantly excluded.

The Publisher begs to acknowledge the receipt of Two Numbers of the *Nonconformist*, sent anonymously to "T. R., 18, Bouverie-street," in answer to his Advertisement of last week, and would be glad to learn where he may send stamps for the same.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1862.

SUMMARY.

THE Warmth of a summer's sun has ushered in the month of May, and shed a crowning glory on the great event of the week and the year—the opening of the International Exhibition last Thursday. But though the weather is suggestive of country recreation, London overflows with visitors, drawn thither mostly by the World's Fair, but in part also by the great religious and philanthropic anniversaries, the reports of which so largely occupy our space. It is satisfactory to find that the leading missionary societies, Church, Wesleyan, and Baptist, are well supported in these times of severe distress in the manufacturing districts. The Bible Society, notwithstanding recent controversies, can rejoice in an increase of funds, and yesterday's meeting passed off in perfect harmony, all discordant topics being judiciously tabooed.

The ample report given elsewhere of the Conference of the Liberation Society, and the closing soiree at the Whittington Club, will satisfy the most cordial friends of that organisation as to its vigour, efficiency, and hopeful spirit. The Bicentenary commemoration was dealt with at yesterday's sitting, and gave rise to an interesting discussion, to which we would invite the attention of its assailants. Though there are no present signs, judging from the tone of the meeting of Evangelical clergy at Southport, that as a body they are disposed to sympathise with the aims of the Liberation Society, one clergyman, the Rev. C. Nevile, of Bawtry, had the courage to appear at yesterday's Conference, and to express a general approval of the moderation and earnestness of its proceedings, and to declare his intention, in his own person, to make a sacrifice for conscience' sake, worthy of the Puritan ministers of 1662. We will not impair, by superfluous comment, the effect of Mr. Nevile's startling announcement that he was prepared, at a fitting time, to surrender to his bishop the valuable preferments he holds. A very wet evening, though it somewhat diminished the attendance at last night's meeting, had no effect on the speaking, which has been rarely surpassed; or upon the audience, who were never more hearty and resolved. From the opening address of the chairman to the close of the meeting, depth of earnestness, sustained eloquence, and anxiety to rise superior to all personal imputations in the conduct of the controversy, were strikingly apparent. The closing meeting was instinct with the lofty tone and solemnity that ought to characterise the bearing of the friends of the Liberation Society during this commemorative year.

We publish in our supplement a full report of the admirable lecture of the Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, on "Nonconformity in 1662 and 1862," the third of the series that are being delivered under the auspices of the Central United Bartholomew Committee, at Willis's Rooms. It was well worthy of those that have preceded it, and was listened to with great attention and cordial marks of approval by an overflowing audience. To reply to Mr. Dale's calmly-reasoned arguments, and in language equally chaste and measured, would be a feat worthy of the most ambitious Church Defence lecturer.

Ecclesiastical questions have occupied much of the attention of Parliament during the week. Sir Morton Peto's Burials Bill, which assimilates the law of England to that of Ireland, has been allowed to be read a second time, on condition that it was referred to a select committee. We shall be curious to see what form the Bill assumes when it has passed through that dangerous ordeal.—Mr. Whalley has brought forward a motion with a view to the withdrawal of the Maynooth endowment, but met in the debate, though he on the division.—The

Revised Code has finally been adopted by the House of Commons, notwithstanding the persistent opposition of the great Education Societies. Mr. Walpole has accepted Mr. Lowe's last edition of the Code, and Parliament has acquiesced, after an interesting discussion. Everything has not been surrendered to the clamour of interested partisans. Henceforth schoolmasters and pupil-teachers will be servants of school managers, and not of the State, thus doing away with the pretence of "vested interests." The principle of examination is also introduced, though in a modified form. But the general conclusion to be deduced from the debate is, that the present system will be found to be too expensive to last, and that Parliament will be obliged ere long to modify it in the sense of the two resolutions of Mr. Baines, which found so little favour on Monday night.

The Roman question has really advanced a stage towards its final settlement. General Goyon, the pro-papal French general, has been recalled from Rome, to the great consternation of the Ultramontanes, who regard the event as a change of system. The King of Italy's emphatic expression of his belief to a Neapolitan deputation that the French wish quite as much as the Italians to terminate the occupation of Rome, and his complimentary letter to the Emperor after reviewing the French fleet at Naples, are signs both of the good understanding between the two sovereigns, and that the French monarch has no idea of obstructing the complete amalgamation of the Southern provinces with the Kingdom of Italy. It is not unlikely that the Imperial policy may have been modified by the report that a successor to Pius IX. has already been appointed in the person of the reactionary Cardinal de Angelis, and in the belief that the great conclave of bishops from all parts of Europe to meet at Rome next month is to be a demonstration in support of the temporal power of the Papacy.

The latest American news, though it does little to relieve suspense as to the issue of the great conflict, throws many side-lights on some of its phases. We have spoken elsewhere of M. Mercier's mysterious mission to Richmond, though we learn from Paris that it is undertaken with the full knowledge of President Lincoln. The abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia has been followed up by the presentation to Congress of a remarkable petition, numerous signed by coloured people in Columbia, in which they express the belief that freedom will result injuriously unless there shall be opened to their race a region to which they may emigrate, a country which is suited to their organisation, and in which they may seek and secure by their own industry that mental and physical development which will allow them an honourable position in the families of God's great world. The President is believed to be in favour of the formation of a coloured state in Central America under the protection of the Union. Every fresh mail describes in vivid terms the magnitude of General McClellan's enterprise at Yorktown, the defences of which are stated, on the authority of Prince Joinville, to be stronger than those of Sebastopol. The Federals are still making gigantic preparations to crush their antagonists with the weight of their artillery, and are building a formidable flotilla of iron-plated boats, one of which is ready to take part in the attack of Yorktown. In the Far West the only news is the siege of Fort Pillow, on the Mississippi.

Indian finances are in so flourishing a condition, that Mr. Laing can rejoice in a surplus of £1,500,000, and is able to reduce by one half the ill-advised import duties on manufactured cotton goods. We hope this partial boon will help to revive the trade of Lancashire.

The Emperor Napoleon is bent on erecting in Mexico a throne for the Archduke Maximilian. The French forces there are being greatly reinforced with the view of marching upon the capital, in conjunction with a Spanish army that reluctantly follows in the wake of the Imperialists. Our Government have, we are glad to find, washed their hands of all responsibility for this indefensible violation of the non-intervention principle.

FRANCE AND THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

THE news brought from America by the Royal Mail steamship Asia throws but little additional light upon the military position and prospects of the contending Republics, and that little does not serve to encourage hopes of the early termination of the civil war. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising to find the public mind in America considerably interested in the mission of M. Mercier, representative of the Imperial Government of France, to Richmond, the head-quarters of the Confederate Government of America, and busy in hazarding all sorts

of conjectures as to the object he is intent upon gaining. It is stated, for instance, that he is known to have unofficially expressed great anxiety to ascertain what commercial treaties the Government of Mr. Jefferson Davis might be disposed to make with France. We are told by one of the Southern papers, the *Richmond Dispatch*, that he had already opened negotiations with the Confederate Secretaries of State, and we are informed by another, the *Richmond Examiner*, that "the Southern people would applaud a treaty securing to France an equal right with Southern vessels to the carrying trade of Southern ports, provided France would raise the blockade." It is said that the Confederate Congress has determined not to adjourn until the termination of M. Mercier's mission, and that whatever arrangement is made will be made with the Confederate President. The *Richmond Dispatch* goes the length of considering that this act of the Imperial Government is, *ipso facto*, a perfect acknowledgment by France of the independence of the Confederate States, while, on the other hand, the Washington correspondent of a Northern paper, the *New York World*, gives it as the belief of some political circles that M. Mercier will propose to the Confederates to surrender at discretion.

Throwing these statements and conjectures together into the alembic of criticism, we are able to extract nothing but the fact that M. Mercier has opened official intercourse, on behalf of France, with the Confederate Government, and the probability that France is prepared to intervene in the American quarrel if she may thereby secure her own commercial interests. We may seriously disapprove, though we are hardly entitled to resent, the course pursued by our nominal ally; we trust, and we incline to believe, that it is not connived at by our own Government. But the doctrine of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other nations, spite of the sanction given to it as an abstraction by the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris, is not a French doctrine, and cannot be truly said to carry with it the convictions and sympathies of the French people. Whenever it stands in the way of their policy, they abandon it without scruple. They did so in Italy; they did so, and we joined them, in Syria; they are intent upon doing so in Mexico; they have done so for many years past in Rome. It has never been an insurmountable barrier in their political path, and it would be foolish to expect, with any confidence, that it would prevent them, for any protracted period, from interposing, when the time may seem to them to be ripe for it, in the affairs of America. Add to this that, down to the present time, France has suffered much more severely than England from the interruption of her manufactures and commerce, and that the Government of France, unlike our own, has to deal with a suffering people, for whose material prosperity it has made itself responsible. Its temptations to meddle in Transatlantic affairs are greater, while its restraints are much feebler, than ours. We cannot affect astonishment, therefore, at M. Mercier's mission, nor should we be greatly surprised if it should terminate in a conditional recognition by France of the Southern Confederacy—a recognition of it, like that of the kingdom of Italy, as an existent fact, without any acknowledgment of the political principle it may involve.

M. Mercier's mission will probably embrace a twofold object. It may be reasonably conjectured that he will collect all the evidence within his reach calculated to show the chances that the Confederates will be able to establish their independence. He will also, doubtless, ascertain by inquiry what kind and extent of national advantage France may obtain for herself by an early acknowledgment of the Southern Republic, as *de facto* entitled to enter into diplomatic relationship with other Powers. What the Confederates would gladly offer in exchange for this much-coveted boon we need hardly concern ourselves to discover. There is little room to believe that the obstacles to any treaty with France will be found on their side. Nor need we give more credit to the Washington rumour, that M. Mercier will propose to the South to surrender at discretion, than its absurdity deserves. Such an idea could have gained access to those only with whom the wish is father to the thought. We can hardly help inferring, however, from the few statements upon which reliance may be placed, that France is anxious to find, if she can, some solid basis on which to rest a claim to act as mediator between the contending parties, and it may have been in reference to the Emperor's intention to put forward this claim, and to the probability of its being admitted, that Earl Russell expressed, some little time back, his strong hope that hostilities would terminate within three months. Assuredly, the mood in which the Northerners appear to regard M. Mercier's mission to Richmond is one rather of intense curiosity than of

unmistakeable anger—and the belief which is said to obtain in political circles in Washington indicates a prevailing impression in that city that his object is not wholly one-sided, and that it does not necessarily point to a rupture with the Federal Government.

There are some grounds for supposing that the statesmen of the North begin to feel the hopelessness of bringing back the Slave States proper within the circle of the Union. The vast extent of thinly peopled territory over which their armies must move, the immense swamps which chequer its surface, the deadly miasmata they exhale, the exhausting heats of summer, the impracticability of feeding enormous armies at any great distance from their respective bases of operation, and the dogged determination of the Southern people to endure any privations and encounter any risks, rather than yield their allegiance anew to the hated Union, must, under any circumstances but those of easy and rapid victories, have shaken the expectation of responsible men in the North of an eventual success which would not cost far more than it was worth. The daily accumulation of debt, the checks which both their Eastern and Western armies have recently experienced, the one under General McClellan before Yorktown, and the other under General Buell before Corinth, and the near approach of the hot season, when active campaigning must necessarily be suspended, will, doubtless, have added force to other considerations tending to compel the Federal leaders to review their original purpose, and disposing them to square it somewhat more closely with existing facts and probabilities. It may be that M. Mercier has gone to the South, armed with a tacit understanding with the Washington Cabinet, and fully informed as to the contingencies under which France may successfully offer her mediation. This seems to us much more likely than that he is negotiating with the Government at Richmond for commercial advantages in return for which France is willing to raise the blockade—and the anti-slavery policy of the North, sanctioned and even suggested by President Lincoln, touching as it does the Border States only, corroborates this view of the case in our judgment.

At any rate, we begin to think that the Civil War is drawing towards its close, and that the present campaign, now rapidly nearing its end, will not be followed by another. Both parties, probably, are feeling weary with the hopeless contest, and both, we do not doubt, have been somewhat sobered by experience. What if M. Mercier, well informed of the views of the Federal Government, is now officially occupied in learning those of the Confederates? What if he should ascertain the existence of conditions on both sides which would render French mediation acceptable? Of course, this is bare conjecture—but it is quite as reasonable as any other that we have seen. If there be anything in it, events will very soon make its truth manifest, and the mail which will bring to Europe news of the suspension of hostilities will not, in that case, be many weeks distant from us.

MAY DAY, 1861.

SPLENDID weather, a State ceremonial, an imposing procession, impressing music, and a multitude large as the population of a good-sized town, combined to make the opening of the International Exhibition on Thursday last a national pageant as brilliant and perfect as could well be, with the Head of the State present only by proxy, and the industrial classes unrepresented. It speaks well for the vitality of the Exhibition of 1862 that the inauguration was a great success, spite of the glorious memories of 1851, the loss of the good Prince to whom both were so largely indebted, and the enforced absence of the Royal Lady, whose countenance and presence could alone have given the requisite *éclat* to the day's ceremonial. It was impossible to pass the green turf in Hyde-park, where eleven years ago stood the fairy palace of Sir Joseph Paxton in its majestic beauty, without reflecting on the disadvantages under which the second International Exhibition would be opened, in comparison with its predecessor. But having once got inside "the great shell" which Captain Fowkes has put up to cover seven acres of industrial and artistic treasures gathered from all nations and all climes, one could not but feel a glow of satisfaction at the substantial triumph which has been achieved at South Kensington, notwithstanding much blundering and many drawbacks.

The untimely death of the Prince Consort threw a cloud over the prospects of the Exhibition of 1861 which was hopelessly irremovable. The glories of 1851 could not be renewed. The Queen herself could not possibly take part in a national event which would have intensified

sorrow still fresh and poignant. But it would have been seemly for the splenetic critics who have made merry over obvious and minor defects incident to the opening ceremony, to have remembered that their absent Sovereign regarded it as a sacred trust to promote, in every possible way the success, of the enterprise, gave directions for a State opening as imposing as the circumstances would allow, and stripped her palaces of their costly treasures to enhance the attractions of the show. Nor was this kindly solicitude forgotten on Thursday last. But one feeling of sad sympathy evidently pervaded that multitudinous assembly that was gathered beneath the eastern dome and overflowed the nave and galleries—an emotion that could scarcely be held in check as the first strains of the National Anthem sung by the choral host burst upon the ear, and reached its climax when "God save the Queen" brought to a close the musical programme. Though the Queen was personally absent she was in the thoughts of all her subjects within those walls.

Although since 1851 we have learned to take a more sober estimate of the influence of these international festivals, the gathering of Thursday last was a memorable epoch in the world's history. For the second time in the experience of mankind the representatives of all peoples were assembled under the same roof to do honour to industry and genius. There was a fusion of all classes, and though the labour that reared and stored the building was not represented, the working classes fully "assisted" on the occasion outside its walls. A procession which comprised the *élite* of English statesmen, artists, men of science, and men of enterprise, to which every colony, however distant, had sent a representative, and every foreign country, from France to Japan, its delegate, encircled by a host of spectators, among whom were the intellects that move, the energies that mould, the fancy that illumines England and the world—composed a spectacle at once grand and awe-inspiring. We envy not the critic who could miss the impressive character of so rare a scene and catch only its incongruous aspects.

In scenic effect and beauty of appearance the Exhibition of 1851 remains unrivalled. But that of 1862 is immeasurably superior in solid attraction and those features that represent national life, industry, and skill. The show of pictures and other works of art is much larger than was exhibited in Manchester, and intrinsically more interesting. For the first time the schools of all Europe may be compared, in a magnificent suite of rooms that the Louvre cannot rival. Whole volumes would not tell so much of the rapid progress of our colonies as the courts that contain specimens of their varied natural productions and manufactures. "What hundreds of thousands of gifted men, dealing with the added knowledge of centuries, and money flowing like water, have brought together," it has been well said, "no man can even faintly describe. It seems as if nothing is absent, from the poorest toy a peasant's child can buy to the mightiest engine England can produce. All powers of war and peace—all the arts produce, from the perfect picture to the drudging household implement, have found a place. Shells from the sea-bottom, and the instrument that brought them first before the eyes of men, lie side by side with the red pine-cone that rocked in Columbian winds. The whole circle of the globe seems here in miniature, and of all things only one thing missed—universally missed, as universally regretted—the bodily presence of him who, more probably than any other men, might rightly receive thanks for the result."

That the Exhibition of 1862 will grow in popularity when fairly completed, and its treasures more fully examined, we have no doubt. Equally good reason is there for expecting that it will enlarge the circle of human knowledge, improve the taste, and multiply the comforts of the human race. Invention will be stimulated, competition promoted, commerce increased, and international prejudices softened. But the presence in superabundance of the dread instruments of war—which were wanting in 1851—dissipates any sanguine hopes of a coming peaceful millennium, and recalls with unpleasant distinctness the revived warlike tastes of the British people. We can then all the more earnestly echo the concluding prayer at the inaugural ceremony:—"O Thou blessed spirit of holiness and love, so rule our hearts that mankind may be united in one brotherhood through Jesus Christ, that as members one of another we may labour everywhere, each in his degree, to minister to the wants of all."

THE FORTIFICATION JOB.

THE reply made by Sir G. C. Lewis to Sir Morton Peto on Friday night that he should probably have to propose before long an addi-

tional sum beyond the loan voted two years ago for fortifications, almost implies that the forthcoming report of the Defence Commission, to whom the subject was referred back again, will recommend the prosecution of that scheme, and that the House of Commons will be called upon practically to reverse its recent decision in favour of iron-roofed gunboats as against the proposed forts at Spithead. The two millions already voted for fortifications may be considered as all sunk, and the forthcoming debate will decide whether Lord Palmerston's gigantic job of fixed defences, involving an outlay of some ten millions more, shall be carried out in its entirety, or be suspended, at all events, while an iron-clad fleet is being constructed for defensive purposes.

The first question that naturally occurs is as to the necessity of these fortifications at all. They were proposed avowedly to make us safe against a French invasion at a time when our line-of-battle ships were, at least, double in number those of our neighbour's, and we were negotiating a treaty of commerce with France. But even if there had been any need for such costly defences in 1860, the progress of scientific discovery and the recent engagements in Hampton Roads have shown that they are not now wanted. The invasion panic has for the moment subsided. How soon it may be resuscitated it would be hazardous to predict. But if common sense guided the instincts of the nation that hobgoblin would be for ever laid; at least till France had constructed an iron fleet, not only for naval warfare, but for the transport of troops across the Channel. The recent American naval rencontres ought to tranquillise the nerves of British alarmists. We are told on the authority of the New York correspondent of the *Times* that the *Merrimac*, with her iron-plated companions, "is quite sufficient to keep in check the whole Federal Navy in Hampton Roads, and is admitted to be fully equal to an additional force of 50,000 men for the defence of the Confederate position." Supposing, then, we again doubt the good faith of the Emperor Napoleon, and affect to regard our neighbours as no better than buccaneers, we may still lie down with the comfortable assurance that half-a-dozen or even less, iron ships could destroy or seriously damage a flotilla of transports on their way across the Channel, or in sight of our shores. Even if such a fleet were protected by Ironsides, the protection afforded would be doubtful, for the *Merrimac* and Monitor duel proves that armour-plated vessels are practically invulnerable to the attacks of each other.

What, then, will be the use of such fixed forts as those proposed to be constructed at Spithead? Not to keep out an invading army, for the transport of such a force would, under the new conditions of naval science, be attended with enormous risk. Would they prevent the entrance of iron-clad batteries into Portsmouth Harbour? The recent great gun experiments at Shoeburyness only prove that a fixed target of any thickness of iron plates can be pierced through and smashed by a projectile fired from a moderate distance. It is yet to be seen what effect the new Armstrong gun would have upon a ship in motion at long range. The following extracts from the report of the very Defence Commission that recommended the Portsmouth job will help to a conclusion on this important point:—"Vessels would offer so small a mark at a distance that even the accuracy of the newly-invented rifled ordnance could not be depended on for striking them; and when it is considered that each will be in motion, and that it will be impossible to estimate correctly their distance, thus constantly varying, it may fairly be assumed that they will incur but little risk in such an attack." "No forts, of any size or description, could prevent the passage of iron-plated ships through a clear channel. 'We are convinced that no practicable amount of fire from batteries can be depended upon to stop the passage of steamships, if the channel is sufficiently clear to allow of their proceeding at great speed.'" On these observations of the Commissioners, Sir Morton Peto, in an admirably-reasoned published letter on iron ships and fixed forts, well remarks:—"The iron vessels of an enemy might therefore run past forts, and obtain an entrance to Portsmouth, or any other harbour. Once past them, of what use would be the forts for purposes of defence? When the ship has run the gauntlet, there is an end of the forts. Forts would then only employ soldiers whose services were required elsewhere; or they would be taken and occupied by the enemy and their batteries turned against ourselves." We are glad, therefore, to find Sir Morton recording his fixed resolve, whatever the report of the Defence Commissioners, to continue to oppose any expenditure upon fixed forts.

For ourselves, after reading the well-authenticated facts marshalled in Mr. Cobden's unanswerable pamphlet, we have not the slightest hope that Parliament will refuse any war-

like outlay that is endorsed by Lord Palmerston's name, even though by so doing it stultifies itself. We cannot forget that successive panics, shown to be not only groundless, but humiliating to us, because we have borne false witness against our neighbours, have raised our fleet of wooden screw line-of-battle ships to between sixty and seventy, the greater part in commission, which are now worthless. Nor is it to be forgotten that this enormous expenditure was in great part caused by fear and rivalry of a friendly Power which up to the year of the Italian war spent year by year barely half of our expenditure upon naval armaments. The same House of Commons that is about to sanction the reconstruction of our navy on new principles, voted nearly a million of money for timber alone last year, though it was then foreseen that iron-plated ships must supersede our "wooden walls." What *might* be done at a moderate cost to the nation, let Sir Morton Peto, an eminently practical man, explain:

But the class of vessels which will in the end prove the least expensive, and the most efficient for purposes of defence, will, I believe, be found to be iron ships, of sufficient size to mount large guns in central batteries protected by shields, and fitted also to act as rams, by the aid of powerful steam machinery. Vessels of this class will have all the advantages of forts, with the additional all-important superiority of mobility. They may be manned with the greatest facility, and with the smallest number of men. There would be no limit to their durability; and unless damaged in action, the only repair they would require would be a coat of paint. A sufficient number of these vessels for the protection of our coasts and harbours might be constructed in two or three years on the Tyne, the Mersey, the Clyde, and the Thames, for a far less sum than that which will have to be expended on fortifying Portsmouth and the other dock-yards. The Government would find no difficulty in contracting for the construction of the hulls of these ships at fixed and certain prices. They could ensure perfection of material and workmanship; and the machinery and engines could be supplied by makers of unquestioned reputation, or furnished from the condemned vessels of the wooden navy. Competition for the construction of these ships would ensure, also, new designs and improved forms, which it is hopeless to expect to obtain from present sources.

The revolution in naval armaments ought, indeed, to effect a *saving* of the national income—for the security against invasion afforded by iron-clad batteries renders superfluous so large an army as we have, in addition to our 150,000 volunteers. But apart from the fortification scheme, there are signs that the Admiralty is proceeding upon the old system. The "reconstruction" is to be carried out on the most costly and thriftless principles. There is no thought of utilising our smaller vessels, still less of going to private yards. A wholly new fleet of iron-plated gun-boats and sloops with wooden bottoms, are to be built under the superintendence of Mr. Reed, who actually lectures the Admiralty through the *Times* on its procrastination.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer insisted the other day at Manchester that our present expenditure was extravagant, but he repudiated on behalf of himself and of the ministry to which he belongs all moral responsibility in regard to the financial condition of the country. That plea is as unsound as it is dangerous. It is not the people that have forced the excessive warlike expenditure upon Parliament and the Government, but the great vested interests which that expenditure has created and strengthened. If they are still listened to, the fortification job will be consummated. If the Government choose to set their faces against it, it will be abandoned. It is time that the country should know whether it is governed by the servants of a military and naval oligarchy, or by statesmen who can not only express but carry out their individual convictions, or—resign office.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. FOX.

THE House of Commons has lost one of its greatest ornaments, and the nation one of its most trusty servants, in the retirement of Mr. W. J. Fox from the representation of Oldham. The event has not been unexpected, for Mr. Fox is now an old man, intimately associated with most of the prominent political events of the generation that is fast passing away. In the struggle for Reform, for cheap bread, for the removal of civil disabilities of Dissenters, his eloquent voice never failed to do its part. Educated first of all at the weaver's loom, when his heart turned to its earliest associations, it turned to working men; and when they needed an advocate he was at his post, an unflinching, fearless advocate, and as true to right and justice as the needle to the pole. Yet he was never a reckless partisan, but rather a calm, philosophical thinker, who could on occasions oppose the dogmas of his best friends, sometimes at the cost of valuable political support, and sometimes at the cost of friendships which he valued still more. When he addressed the House of Commons there was no idea in the minds of honourables and right

honourables that a demagogue had possession of the floor. His wisdom, thoughtfulness, and broad statesmanship were not less felt than were his close logic and correct taste and eloquence admired. And those who differed with him most strongly were often the readiest to admit that in all he said and did there was an evident and unquestionable loyalty to conscience which divested his advocacy of anything like personality and partisanship, and rested it on a foundation which no honest opponent could wish removed. There, however, he stood as firmly as the most obstinate mortal could desire. If he could not on all occasions be "reckoned upon" to go into the lobby with Palmerston against Disraeli, he could always be depended upon to go into that lobby in which, for the time being, truths and popular rights were championed. He had no need of absenting himself from an "awkward division;" we know not that there ever was an awkward division to W. J. Fox. His character was too strong, his opinions too decided and known, for any evasion of public duties to form a part of his parliamentary tactics.

Yes, Oldham had a firm and decided voice in Parliament when represented by Mr. Fox. And at those times when evil counsels prevailed, and Oldham rejected its honoured representative, a thrill of sorrow and indignation ran throughout the land, affecting almost every liberal heart except the one that had paid the penalty. With him it was different. If there were not Parliamentary duties there were a thousand other duties to perform; and to these he cheerfully addressed himself until right feelings regained the ascendancy in Oldham, and restored him to the House of Commons, from which he now retires.

Well, he has done a man's duty there, and here—with tongue and pen; and the electors of Oldham will do that borough a high honour, and their country one more incalculable service, when they can send to a seat in the House of Commons another such "Norwich Weaver-boy." The heartiest and kindest feelings of thousands whom he has never known or heard of will follow Mr. Fox into his retirement, and anticipate for him all the peace and comfort of a ripe and honoured old age. Even there—all our differences being now forgotten—he will still be one of the "elders" of our nation, strong to counsel and advise should the storms of party and the vicissitudes of ever-changing times require the check of age, wisdom and experience. We shall still recur to his eloquent words and still more eloquent deeds; and though we can have but little hope of adding very considerably to the latter, there will still be much, we trust, that Englishmen will not suffer to perish that has come from the lips of William James Fox.

VICTOR EMMANUEL AT NAPLES.

THE Resurrection of Italy has this week been materially assisted by the visit of Victor Emmanuel to Naples. The friends and foes of Italian Unity alike looked upon it as the grand experiment which was to decide the fate of the Bourbon dynasty, or checkmate the policy and aspirations of the House of Savoy. Of its importance to Italy and human freedom we will speak afterwards; let us first see it in this simplest aspect, involving the fate or fortune of two rival dynasties. When Garibaldi commenced his "progress" among the people whom his sword and spirit had raised so wonderfully in the rank of nation, there was no doubt as to his reception. He was the Liberator, the hero of the age, grand in his simplicity and truthfulness—a very king, indeed, enthroned in all Italian hearts. What the proudest despot had never achieved he had won without effort, and no one doubted that all people would bow in homage wherever he appeared. For Victor Emmanuel, however, there were mixed with predictions of hearty welcome certain forebodings of insult, if not of peril, in his visit to the late capital of his rival. Even in the British House of Commons croakings, only silenced by the loftiest eloquence of the British nation, foretold the speedy humiliation of the gallant King. Friends of freedom hoped differently, believed differently, but feared, nevertheless, that the arts of despotism, acting on an uneducated populace, might prevail sufficiently to influence the diplomacy and governmental policy of Europe. Garibaldi was advised to "stop short of Naples," that the unanimous enthusiasm which everywhere awaited the uncrowned King, might not challenge comparison with the divided allegiance which was expected for the crowned one.

The King of Italy has dared the venture, and won the prize. In the palmiest days of Italian empire there was no reception equal to this which has been awarded to the Constitutional King. Newspaper correspondents have exhausted all their figures of rhetoric in describing it. The

Times acknowledges that its correspondent, "not usually impressionable to popular demonstration," is here "carried morally as well as physically off his feet." On all hands there awaited Victor Emmanuel that general welcome that bespoke the new life of a nation. Defended by the National Guard—what will Sir G. Bowyer say to that?—surrounded by the people of Naples, the King of Italy moved, amid a "hurricane of applause," to the pavilion which had been prepared for his reception. As Epaminondas in the old days of Greece could dispense with the body-guard which Dionysius deemed indispensable to his personal safety, so can Victor Emmanuel trust to the people who only yesterday were—nay, who even yet are—claimed as subjects by a dynasty amongst the most hateful that ever cursed mankind. The crowd was immense—vast, "dense," says the *Times* correspondent, "beyond any crowd I was ever in," yet, not one arrest was made in the city. This leads us from the dynasty to the nation.

The reception of Victor Emmanuel, we have said, is the latest fact in the Resurrection of Italy. It is not with the *Rè Galantuomo* we have to do, but with a noble people that has long suffered for the sins of its ancestors. Many centuries have passed away since Italian character and intellect first made themselves felt in the history of men. Many centuries have passed since that intellect and nation, convicted of terrible crimes against human freedom—if not human progress—was doomed to present destruction, and to lie fallow for ages, till the crime had been purged away. The most hated royal and priestly despotisms seized upon the glorious heritage, and from the City of the Seven Hills there has issued more corruption and falsehood than ever came from any other regal city since time began. At last the favours that Italy had conferred on Western Europe began to bud and blossom; and then the ancient seat of learning put in a claim to share not merely the fame but also the comforts and immunities of freedom and civilisation. The politics and "necessities" of Europe pressed heavily upon it, but the life of the nation was far from extinct; and till that was extinct the heaviest pressure could not remove the old basis of nationality. To-day the "Revival" is complete.

It is not the man but the principle to which homage has been paid in this reception of Victor Emmanuel. The gallant King had been nothing if he had been merely the representative of kingly power; but because he is more than that the fleets of England and France attend him from province to province of his newly acquired territory, the people to whom his visit is made greet him with *vivas* more real and spontaneous than have been heard in Naples for many a day, nay, the wishes of free men in all nations are on his side, rejoicing with the enthusiastic Italians, and attaching to their pageant a grave political importance in European history. It is true the Neapolitans are fond of such pageants, and have in times past shouted in a manner which liberal Europe has not approved. But no one will venture to confound an Italian holiday, and a despotic procession under the shadow of bayonets, with the outburst of long pent-up feeling that has now greeted the King of free Italy. All prognostications of a limited outburst, a half-hearted reception, have been belied. The rivalry of Naples and Turin has been excited in vain, for the happy idea had preceded the King that Rome and not Turin is the capital of Italy. The united nation is only provisionally ruled from the provisional capital; the seat of Government is on the Tiber; and thither all eyes were bent as the King, passing from the chief city of the province of Piedmont to another provincial capital of his great kingdom, prepared for the final occupation of Rome. Fully understanding this, the Piedmontese is evidently the brother rather than the foe of the Neapolitan. Jealousy of Turin is not potent enough to enrol Naples on the side of bad government. From the highest to the lowest the voices of these Neapolitans have been with the King, who represents progress, and with the principles which secure it. The beautiful Bay of Naples, so long stagnant with the lethargy which falls from bad laws and false kingship, was once more alive to welcome the true and honest in royalty, represented in this instance by the son of Charles Albert, of the Royal house of Savoy. Patiently, in the face of obstacles which sometimes appeared insurmountable, has the Italian Parliament held on its way. Threatened, satirised—nay, even excommunicated in the persons of its representatives—this Assembly has continued in the path of freedom; and to-day the reward is nearer its reach than a few years ago the most sanguine would have deemed possible. The brave, red-shirted soldier has for the moment stood on one side that Europe may be certified of the resurrection of Italy—may be certified, indeed, that the principle for which he has contended is understood, and that universal suffrage has not

more certainly decreed Garibaldi the first place among heroes than it has decreed the city of Rome to be a nation's heritage, which sooner or later—and the sooner the more welcome—must be obtained.

At this moment of success, however, it is more than ever necessary for the Italians to be alive to the political situation. Shorn as it is of the power which once it wielded, the Papedom is not yet to be despised as an antagonist. Even in England we are made to feel this, and it may be felt with double force in Italy before the Italian kingdom is consolidated by the possession of its capital. And even then the difficulties will be far from removed. An Antonelli at the Vatican would be the centre of intrigue and trouble if once the Royal house gave opportunity for that by losing the confidence of the people. This, however, may be handed over for consideration to a more convenient period; whilst in the meantime the Italians cannot too earnestly press forward for a general settlement of their affairs. A nation fully alive to its nationality is invincible, and a nation that has suffered and fought so well, and then in all the intoxicating flushes of prosperity has acted with such moderation, cannot well be otherwise than alive to the fact that it is a nation and a Power. Yet still no man can predict what an hour may bring forth in Europe, nor how the exigencies of other nations might influence the final settlement of Italy. Patience, therefore, does not mean forgetfulness, but an absolute concentration of Italian faculties on the work yet to be done—an absolute selfishness as a nationality—a digging about the Capital and raising on every side of it a hotbed of liberalism, education and material progress, until the Eternal City drop like a ripe peach at the feet of a great people.

DUSTY ROADS.

STRANGE as it may seem, there are certain periods of the year when we anticipate dusty roads with a sort of longing eagerness. About the middle of a wet February, and especially if the winter has been characterised by copious downfalls of snow and rain, the spongy condition of most country roads, and the sludge which covers the surface of even the best of such as are macadamised, give, by the force of contrast, a positive attraction to the opposite annoyance, seen only in the far distance. The evils that are present with us are generally felt to be the worst with which we can be afflicted, and, in our anxiety to get rid of them, we are ready enough to receive in exchange for them those which as soon as they are fairly upon us force us to think that we have only jumped "out of the frying-pan" to fall "into the fire." As we have already entered upon the season during which mud, as a thing of the past, loses its terrors, and dust, as a thing of the present, assumes all its power of troubling us, we may fitly enough take as our topic that which, dry as it is in itself, will be often before us in its reality during the next few months, and out of which may be picked, if we will but look for them, some thoughts which are worth retaining. If our readers can muster up sufficient resolution to keep us company to the end of the "dusty roads" in which, for the nonce at least, we intend to travel, we are not altogether devoid of hope that they may find a new answer to Sampson's enigma, "Out of the eater cometh forth meat."

Why is it that almost everything in this world which we specially value should invariably bring with it a disagreeable appendix? Numerous and good roads belong to an advanced state of civilisation, and lead us to infer, with moral certainty, frequency of social intercourse and unceasing commercial activity. Why is it that we cannot have these unquestionable advantages without a drawback proportioned to their magnitude? We can conceive of a state of things, under other laws of Nature than those which now regulate the disposition of matter, in which good roads, ready made to our feet, should be found wherever they were needed, and be wholly free from the annoyance of dust through all seasons and under any amount of traffic? Why is the actual state of things so different from that which we like to imagine, and why, in the present state of being, is the ideal so far ahead, as to almost everything, of the existent? That it is so everybody is made sensible. Every one's road through life is, at times, a dusty one. The very hedgerows on either hand which dress themselves in such delicate array as spring advances, and the wild-flowers which peep out from the bank on which they grow, and sport their varied beauties and exhale their fragrance, to the admiration and refreshment of every passenger, get soiled and choked with dust, and fall into a

pleasures which line our way to the end of our course, even where they continue to live, very soon lose their freshness, and present to our desires their natural attractions all sullied by use and wont. The sprays and leaves that were at first so deliciously green, so suggestive of tenderness and purity, so apparently intent upon keeping dirt and disorder at a distance, how white, and dry, and dust-laden they too quickly become, needing to die down to the roots before they can recover their early loveliness! Why is this? It exhibits a law of life so universally applicable that we may be sure there is deep meaning in it. It is not the result of an unlucky chance that the roads that we most need, and that we oftenest use, are, throughout the pleasantest seasons of our earthly being, most dusty. The phenomenon must be a significant one if we could only fairly interpret its significance.

We are not going to plunge into a religio-philosophical disquisition, nor is it our wish to ram our thoughts into an empty homily-case, for these columns beset neither speculations nor sermons. But, treating on the subject of "dusty roads," as our manner is, in a free, chatty, touch-and-go, suggestive way, we may point out a pleasant and alleviating reflection we are rather apt to overlook, that dust is inevitable on roads only—on the line of passage from one spot to another. We can shut it out from home. It belongs far more to the business than to the quiet enjoyments of life. It is not in the fields—it does not penetrate far into the woods—into the former of which we wander for invigoration, and into the latter of which we retreat for silent and reverent meditation. It is chiefly in the lines a long which we drive our traffic, our merchandise, our materials for the acquisition of gain, that we become enveloped in a cloud of floating particles of this earthly soil, and that every step we take puffs a new volume of them into readiness and power to annoy us. And where the traffic is greatest and most uninterrupted the dust is most abundant. Where men most congregate together for trade and manufacture, all the approaches to their centres of activity—and they are necessarily more numerous than in other places—are most liable to this polluting disturbance. The cares which settle upon us, which despoil of purity and freshness the very attire of our souls, and which choke our best aspirations, trouble us chiefly in the highways of secular occupation, and suggest to us that they connect themselves mainly with that through which, though it may be our duty to pass, it is not necessarily our destiny to dwell there. Few of us spend our whole lives on the road, and those who do, seldom do so to good purpose. Business is not everything—and the man who makes it everything soon shows in his exterior bearing not only where he has been, but where he has not—for it is easy to infer from the state of his sympathies, his affections, and his whole emotional nature, to say nothing of his habits, that he resorts to no alternation of thought or feeling to brush away the dust which settles in thick layers upon his soul.

And this thought naturally conducts us to another, namely, that we should all of us establish a retreat from the dusty ways of life, and frequent it, partly to relieve and recruit ourselves, partly to cleanse ourselves from daily stains. We might, and that, we think, without impropriety, enforce the immense advantage, even in connexion only with the enjoyments of time, accruing from stated converse with the things that address themselves to our spiritual nature, the frequent application of which, like water to the body, washes away the pollutions which, when left unheeded, soon check all the functions, and impede the development, of the inner and inextinguishable life. But this is a lesson which, in one shape or another, is inculcated upon us every week. We leave it, therefore, to those who specially consecrate their energies to this end. It is worthy of remark, however, that there are lodges—we may not call them homes—into which it is wise periodically to retire from the dust and turmoil of the world's great thoroughfare, wherein we may brush away some of the deposit which, undisturbed, stuffs up all the pores through which the life within us should breathe out what is extraneous to it, and repel from its citadel the invisible forces of incipient decay and death. Let every man who values his health, and would maintain an equable cheerfulness of spirit, set up for himself some pursuit which will periodically withdraw him from the "dusty roads" of business—reading, composition, verse-making, drawing, music—or, where he has a wife and family, any of the domesticities by which he can increase their pleasures, draw out their affections, or give useful exercise to their minds. If he is only as true to his recreation as he is to his counting-house, and, if, especially, he selects his recreations with a view

to the parched and exhausted traveller, or as the washing of the feet in Eastern climes, the first duty of polite hospitality. Alternation of some sort there must be if a man would keep his spirits fresh and healthful, and he who grows indifferent to all change of pursuit is more to be pitied than the tramp who knows not the luxury of daily ablutions.

No doubt, it is possible to lay the dust on our most frequented roads, and, in the neighbourhood of towns, this is usually more or less effectually attempted. It is done by public arrangement only, and needs frequent repetition to make a resort to the process worth while. We have not yet reached that advanced stage of civilisation which will permit of an analogous expedient in our method of transacting business. We sometimes wonder whether we ever shall. Will society, commercial society more particularly, ever attain to that perfection of organisation which will liberate from all unnecessary, because avoidable, cares, the great majority of those who earn their subsistence or derive their wealth from manufacturing or trading occupations? A slight approach to this "consummation devoutly to be wished" has been made—a very slight one, it is true. We are gradually abridging the hours of business—we intercalate more holidays than we used to do. Still, it must be confessed, that even these alleviations leave the roads of daily toil exceedingly dusty. The worries of trading life arise very mainly from what we may describe as the looseness of the soil along which it travels. Lax morality has become so prevalent, that they who frequent the road of which it constitutes the basis, must needs be enveloped in clouds of dust, and unconsciously inhale some of it into their system. O, for a watering-cart fit for the exigency! O for some process by means of which the exchange of commodities from hand to hand might be effected universally without raising up on every side a polluting atmosphere! We suppose the desideratum may be realised at some distant day in the future—meanwhile, let every man do his utmost to lay the dust before his own door.

Life on the road has its termination—life beyond it will be free from dust. Petty vexations that fill the atmosphere of our present state of being seem to be appropriate to it, and to it alone. They are decidedly unpleasant—but they subject us to a useful discipline, and increase our longings for some purer and more translucent sphere. The only remedy on this side the grave, for those who desire a remedy, is periodical retirement and frequent washings—beyond it, we look for "green pastures" and "still waters" in a region where "dusty roads" will be unknown.

SECOND EDITION.

Nonconformist Office, Friday Morning.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. EDWARD MIAL.

Yesterday (Thursday) evening, at the Freemasons' Hall, in the presence of a crowded assembly of ladies and gentlemen, comprising many of the leading Nonconformists in London, was presented to Mr. Edward Mial, the editor of this journal, a testimonial of five thousand pounds, together with a handsome silver tea and coffee service, and salver. This presentation was the crowning point of a movement which has been going on for some weeks past amongst the friends of religious equality throughout Great Britain, and the event was calculated to make a lasting impression upon the minds of those who witnessed it. Tea and coffee were served in the room adjoining the large hall between six and seven o'clock, but in the meantime the hall rapidly filled, and before the hour for commencing the proceedings arrived was densely crowded. The following list comprises a portion of the gentlemen who took up their positions on and around the platform: Mr. John Bright, M.P.; Mr. T. Barnes, M.P.; Mr. C. Gilpin, M.P.; Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P.; Mr. G. Hadfield, M.P.; Mr. J. Stansfeld, M.P.; Mr. F. Crossley, M.P.; Mr. Sheriff Cockerell; Mr. Samuel Morley; Rev. W. Brock; Rev. J. H. Hinton; Rev. Jno. Burnet; Rev. H. Richard; Rev. J. H. Wilson; Stafford Allen, Esq.; Rev. Dr. Halley; Duncan McLaren, of Edinburgh; Rev. Dr. Angus; Dr. Thos. Price; W. Edwards, Esq.; J. J. Colman, Esq., of Norwich; C. Robertson, Esq., of Liverpool; H. O. Wills, Esq., of Bristol; J. King, Esq., of Ipswich; H. Cosham, Esq., of Bristol; Rev. J. Fletcher, of Christchurch; Rev. J. Murrell, of Kettering; Mr. Deputy Powtress: W. Heaton, Esq.; Rev. F. Tressail; Isaac Perry, Esq., of Chelmsford; Rev. J. G. Mial, of Bradford; Jos. Spence, Esq., of Manchester; W. Warburton, Esq., of Manchester; Potts Brown, Esq., of Houghton; Rev. G. W. Conder, of Leeds; Rev. E. White; Rev. Dr. Thomas, of Pontypool; J. Nunneley, Esq., of Harbottle; W. Raines

Waddington; Rev. B. C. Etheridge, of Ramsgate; J. Carvell Williams, Esq.; W. Williams, Esq., of Huddersfield; Thos. Roberts, of Manchester; Rev. W. Griffiths, of Derby; Rev. J. Davies, of Aberaman; Thomas Williams, of Aberdare; E. Goddard, Esq., of Ipswich; J. Noble, Esq., of Brighton; Harper Twelvetrees, Esq.; R. Rumney, Esq., of Manchester; J. C. Woodhull, Esq., of Birmingham; Rev. C. M. Birrell, of Liverpool; Rev. T. C. Hime, of Sydenham; Rev. W. J. Unwin, M.A.; Rev. J. H. Millard; Rev. R. Macbeth; Rev. J. Pillans; John Stewart, Esq., of Sydenham; J. F. Whiteley, of Richmond; T. Bantock, Esq., of Wolverhampton; Rev. W. Bean; Rev. J. Curwen, of Plaistow; W. Morgan, Esq., Birmingham; J. Noble, Esq., Brighton; Rev. J. Kilsby Jones; H. Piddock, Esq., Hanley; Rev. S. M'All; Rev. T. Lloyd, St. Ives; Rev. — Gunn, Warminster; Rev. R. Macbeth; H. R. Ellington.

Precisely at seven o'clock, Mr. Sheriff Cockerell, accompanied by Mr. Miall, Mr. Bright, M.P., Mr. Barnes, M.P., Mr. Stansfeld, M.P., and other leading gentlemen, entered the hall. Their entrance was the signal for an outburst of cheering which was again and again repeated as the forms of well-known individuals were seen to emerge from the crowded assembly to take the seats assigned to them on the platform. The Rev. J. H. Hinton, the Rev. J. Bennett, and the Rev. Dr. Halley, as they were thus recognised, were loudly applauded.

After the cheering had subsided, the CHAIRMAN rose and said they had assembled that night to do homage to a principle—a principle embodied in his friend Edward Miall. (Loud cheers.) If it had been necessary for him to introduce the subject for the first time to their notice he should have shrunk from occupying his present position, but they all knew Mr. Miall so well that it would not be necessary for him to detain the meeting by any lengthened remarks. He had watched the career of his friend Mr. Miall for many years. In his library was No. 1 of the *Nonconformist* newspaper—a journal which, when it was first announced, he feared there would be no room for, but which, after he had perused the first two numbers, he felt satisfied was conducted by a man who well knew how to maintain the great religious principles which they, as Dissenters, hoped one day to see triumphant. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. HEATON, editor of the *Freeman*, said he had been requested by the Executive Committee, of which body he was one of the honorary secretaries, to state in a sentence or two what had been done by them under the direction of the General Committee to bring about the magnificent result which had been accomplished. Towards the close of last year it occurred to a number of Mr. Miall's friends that in April of the present year the *Nonconformist* would have attained the age of twenty-one years. It seemed to them that that furnished a suitable opportunity of recognising the services of Mr. Miall in the cause of civil and religious liberty, not only in connection with the newspaper but in many other ways. As soon as the subject was mentioned abroad it was taken up by many persons, some of whom only knew Mr. Miall as a public man, a General Committee of 300 gentlemen in different parts of the country was appointed, and also an Executive Committee, upon whom the labour had chiefly devolved. The most cheering and gratifying communications had been received from all parts of the country in response to the appeal, and it was determined to bind them in a volume to be hereafter presented to Mr. Miall. He ventured to say that that volume would form not the least interesting portion of the testimonial that was to be presented to him. There had only been one unfavourable reply to the circular which the Committee had sent out, and that was of so singular a character that he could not refrain from mentioning it. It was from a person in some distant part of Cornwall, who found fault with the *Nonconformist* because of its warlike tone—(laughter)—and because it was entirely a reproduction of the *Times*. (Great laughter.) Many of the most interesting replies came from people living in poor districts, who expressed their most earnest respect, sympathy, and affection with Mr. Miall, though they had never seen him. The committee had only had a short time in which to complete their efforts, but it was intended that night to ask Mr. Miall's acceptance of a testimonial, amounting in value to upwards of 5,000*l.* (Loud cheers.)

Mr. S. MORLEY said he had been requested as a member of the committee to read the address which had been prepared, and to be the medium of conveying to their honoured friend the testimonial which had been presented for his acceptance. (Cheers.) He was not willing, however, to perform a mere mechanical part in the engagements of the evening. He considered that they had assembled to do homage to fidelity of conscience—a principle of which Mr. Miall had furnished one of the most illustrious examples of the present day. (Applause.) As a Dissenter he felt under great obligations to Mr. Miall. He had been a reader of the *Nonconformist* from the earliest years of his existence, and if it were proper to do so he might easily refer to circumstances which proved the self-sacrifice and heroism which Mr. Miall exhibited in the first years of that newspaper. He had been reflected upon for leaving the ministry of the pulpit for another vocation, but he (Mr. Morley) honoured him for the step he had taken. (Cheers.) The feature of Mr. Miall's writings which had been most

interesting. He (Mr. Morley) understood that this was Mr. Miall's birthday. (Applause.) He was delighted to hear it, and he was sure that in the name of that meeting he might wish him many happy returns of the day. (Loud cheers.) He trusted that the calmness, the patience, the perseverance, and the courage, which had distinguished their friend would, for many years to come, be at the service of the sacred cause of freedom. (Cheers.) He now begged to read the following address:—

"TO EDWARD MIALL, ESQ.

"Sir,—Fifteen hundred persons, whose names are inscribed hereafter, and who, as you will see, are scattered over every part of the United Kingdom, respectfully beg your acceptance of the accompanying testimonial.

"In doing so, they wish to offer you their sincere congratulations, that, on the 14th of April last, the *Nonconformist* newspaper completed the twenty-first year of its existence. They wish to express their very high estimate of the value of the services which, through that paper, you have rendered to the cause of civil and religious liberty. They wish to assure you of their full appreciation of the efforts which you have made in that journal, to indoctrinate the public mind with juster and broader views both of the true nature of the Church and the true province of the State. They wish, especially, to express their conviction, that to your teaching and influence it is owing, in a very great degree, that the Protestant Dissenters of this country have come to be felt and acknowledged as a distinct political power which no party can afford to ignore, and that many forward steps in the direction of religious equality have marked the legislation of the last twenty years.

"Nor would the subscribers confine their testimony to the value of your efforts as a journalist alone. By your labours in connexion with the Liberation Society—in the organisation of which you took a prominent part, and to the subsequent conduct of which you have contributed large and valuable aid; by your services in Parliament while member for Rochdale; by your faithful representation of Voluntaryism in the late Royal Commission on Education; by your valuable contributions to religious literature; and by the steady and enlightened support you have ever given to liberal ecclesiastical and political principles,—the subscribers feel that your life hitherto has been one of eminent usefulness, and that it is entitled to respectful and most grateful acknowledgment by your countrymen and friends.

"While the subscribers thus thankfully recognise the past, they look forward with confident expectation to the future. They desire by this testimonial of their regard, which they trust you will believe to be no unmeaning one, to encourage your heart, to strengthen your hands, and, if it may be, to increase your influence. They desire to express their growing attachment to those great principles, with which, for many years, you have so honourably identified your name. May your life, Sir, be long spared, and your usefulness continued; may all personal and family blessings be richly bestowed upon you; may the truth you have been honoured to teach, obtain for itself more hearty adherents, and advance to yet grander victories; and before you are called to your rest, and before you hear from the lips of the Master the invitation to His eternal recompense, may it be yours to see the principles of which you have been the chief expounder, and which you have done so much to illustrate and defend, gain for themselves that universal acceptance to which they are undoubtedly destined."

[Signed, on behalf of the subscribers, by the Chairman, Treasurer, Honorary Secretaries, and the Executive Committee.]

Mr. MORLEY then handed to Mr. Miall a banker's pass-book, containing a sum placed to his credit, of 5,000*l.*; also a very elegant solid silver tea and coffee service and salver, the latter bearing the following inscription:—

To Edward Miall, Esq., presented by his friends, in testimony of their appreciation of his public efforts, during twenty-one years, to promote the extension of civil and religious freedom—May 8th, 1862."

Mr. MIALL, who was received with prolonged and reiterated cheering, said he could not find words wherewith to respond to the too eulogistic address which had just been presented, and the truly magnificent gift with which it was accompanied. He, first of all, thanked Him, the spirituality, and therewith the unity, peace, and power, of whose kingdom upon earth he had humbly sought to promote. If his efforts had to any extent been useful to others or honourable to himself, the praise was due to the Supreme Being whom he had endeavoured to serve. But, even as a mere instrument in his hands, he must disclaim appropriating to himself more than a small part of that eulogy which had been allotted to him. A great part of the reputation which had lighted upon him was fairly owing to the work of others. Very little would have been achieved on behalf of the principles which they all loved, if he had not been assisted by noble colleagues. His pen in the *Nonconformist* would have been comparatively barren of results but for their indefatigable industry and zeal in the committee room of the Liberation Society. (Cheers.) The remarkable progress which their cause had made had, however, principally been brought about by the revival and expansion of religious life in the Establishment. The very divisions in the Church were but the tinglings and powerful pulsations of a renewed vitality, and however painful the process through which she was passing, and had passed, there

(Cheers and laughter.) None had any right to say, "This is our work." What they were doing was not, indeed, superfluous, it was ancillary; it was only as instruments that they were capable of doing anything to advance the cause which lay so near their hearts. (Hear, hear.) Those who counted him and his friends their enemies, mistaken though they were in so regarding them, were doing much to accelerate the advance of Nonconformist principles. Their own anxiety to drive a sharp distinction between political Dissenters and religious Dissenters—meaning to suggest thereby that activity for the release of the Church from her bonds was faction, and that silence upon the subject was piety; the contempt and abuse which they had lavished upon Dissenters for many years past; the confidence with which they reproduced historical theories long since exploded, and believed that by the incessant iteration of fiction they could make facts; the blind dotage with which they hugged to their bosoms the very evils of the system which destroyed their liberty and their power for usefulness; these things were exerting an influence over the public mind to their discredit, of which they could not be fully aware. The unworthy tactics which they pursued did but awaken inquiry where else it might have slept, suggesting suspicion to thoughtful and candid minds, and driving multitudes of the so-called religious Dissenters into the arms and the companionship of the political ones. (Cheers and laughter.) Without interpreting their congratulatory address in a too egotistic sense, he begged to express the deep gratification which he felt at having received the assurance of his friend that his labours as a journalist during one-and-twenty years had, on the whole, met with their approbation. (Cheers.) If the *Nonconformist* newspaper had rendered any service in placing in a more commanding position the principles of religious equality, it was mainly owing to the concurrence of two or three causes. The first was that from the issue of the paper down to the present time, that was the object which he had studiously kept in view; secondly, it had been his aim to present that object upon national, and not upon party or sectarian grounds; and thirdly, he had been governed by his convictions of truth in the exposition and enforcement of political and ecclesiastical principles. (Cheers.) With those aims and objects before him he had learned to disregard abuse and vituperation, which, though sometimes freely heaped upon him, had never, to the best of his recollection, caused him a sleepless night. (Cheers and laughter.) Mr. Miall concluded by thanking personally the members and officers of the Executive Committee for their kindly zeal in his behalf, and resumed his seat amid the most fervent plaudits of the assembly.

Mr. BRIGHT, M.P., whose rising was the signal for a tremendous outburst of applause, said that Mr. Miall and he had not met for the first time that night. Exactly two-and-twenty years ago came the 10th of next September Mr. Miall called upon him in Rochdale, being then on a visit to some of the friends of the cause with which he had been ever since identified, with a view to ascertain how far it was likely that a journal like the *Nonconformist* would succeed. From that time to the present he had enjoyed the friendship of Mr. Miall. In 1852 he became the representative in Parliament of the borough of which he (Mr. Bright) was an elector, and a great misfortune it undoubtedly was for that borough and for a great cause when, from local differences and accidental causes, the connection between Mr. Miall and that constituency was severed. (Hear, hear.) Only that very evening, just before leaving the House of Commons, he had told a gentleman, not publicly identified in the least with the views held by Mr. Miall, where he was going, and the reply of that gentleman was, "Ay, Mr. Miall is the only man who ever argued that great question as it ought to be argued in the House of Commons." (Loud applause.) That was perfectly true, and, therefore it was deeply to be regretted that Mr. Miall was not now in the House of Commons. (Hear, hear.) In 1860, Mr. Miall was appointed one of the Commissioners on National Education. No better selection could the Duke of Newcastle have made when he asked for a man of intellect and judgment, one who had the confidence of the Voluntary party, to appoint upon that Commission. He (Mr. Bright) had heard from the lips of the Duke of Newcastle what he thought of Mr. Miall after the work of the Commission was over. He had heard him speak of his courtesy, his moderation, his liberality, his sound judgment, and his laboriousness, in language at least as eulogistic as anything which had been uttered on that platform. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Miall's life had been devoted to the one grand object—religious freedom. He had been a teacher of Dissent to Dissenters and of Protestantism to professing Protestants. And the principles which he taught had been making steady progress. They had never been thoroughly adopted except by one great nation—the United States of America—and more recently in Canada. (Cheers.) But they were to a large extent adopted in the Australian colonies, and were making daily and hourly progress at home. In Ireland only about one-tenth of the population acknowledge themselves in connection with the Established Church. In Scotland, at least two-thirds of the people had no connection with it. In Wales, at least eight-tenths did not attend the ministrations of the Established Church, whilst in England, where it was most powerful, rather more people preferred on a Sunday to go to chapel than to church. (Cheers.) With these facts and with the growing religious feeling observable within the Establishment, they might rely upon it that that great question would not slumber. Mr. Miall had been arraying a mass of facts on the subject which were wholly indisputable, and in addition to that he had submitted them all to the public ear with a courtesy, a toleration, and a patience which had never been surpassed in any political or ecclesiastical controversy. (Applause.) He had, in fact, created a new school—widening and deepening the current of Dissent. Even within the Church herself, where there were now more good and earnest men than there had ever been, he had caused many to doubt with regard to the position they occupied. He had put the Church on the defensive; and depend upon it, when the political Church came out and made a logical defence of herself it would be exactly as it was when the country gentlemen established a society in favour of Protection, and when every man said, "The Lord hath de-

term Dissenting—were greatly indebted to Mr. Miall. The cause of religious and civil liberty was also greatly indebted to him, for he had taken that great question out of the mire of party politics, except when it came to be discussed in the shape of Church-rates in the House of Commons. When that was the case, men who taunted them with being political Dissenters marshalled in all their force as political Churchmen. (Laughter and cheers.) The hon. gentleman concluded his speech with a glowing tribute to the public and private worth of Mr. Miall, and resumed his seat amid loud and continued applause.

The Rev. J. H. HINTON, addressing Mr. Miall as the representative of the Baptist Union, tendered to him the sincere thanks and sympathy of that denomination, less for his talents, eminent, and in some respects unrivalled, though they were, than for the ardour with which he had consecrated himself to the cause which he had at heart, for the steadfastness with which he had cheered on the friends, and the unflinching courage with which he had borne the assaults of the enemies of civil and religious liberty. (Loud cheers.) The Baptists in England had always stood in the van of those who had claimed religious liberty for themselves and advocated it for others. (Hear, hear.) In a period of their history antecedent to the birth of Nonconformity they existed as separatists from the Church of England established by law, and maintained what the Nonconformists did not maintain—the rightful and entire liberation of religion from State patronage and control, which had at once supplied the public designation and constituted the essential principle of the society to which Mr. Miall had devoted himself. (Cheers.) To that society the Baptists had furnished some of its strongest and most enlightened friends, and he was convinced that none felt a warmer sympathy than they in the well-merited honour which was conferred on Mr. Miall that evening. The Baptists held Mr. Miall in admiration for these qualities, and they believed that as a man raised up by Divine Providence and fitted for his work, he would be held in admiration by their children and children's children. Let the love that is shown to you, dear Mr. Miall, cheer you amidst your work and its toils, and be a token and a pledge to you in some sort of the affection of the wise and the good, not only in a future age, but in a future world, where the great principles you have advocated will shine forth with a splendour before which all forms of State-Churchism will pale and expire. (Loud applause.)

The Rev. Dr. HALLEY said he was sorry he could not put himself in a position at all analogous to that of his honoured friend. He had no pretence to stand there as the representative of the Congregational Union, for unfortunately he was not very intimately connected with any of the organisations of the present day. He spoke for himself and for nobody else whatever. (Laughter and cheers.) But as his friend Mr. Hinton had said that the Baptists had always been in the van in the great cause of religious liberty, to rejoice that an Independent followed him so closely. (Cheers and laughter.) He (Dr. Halley) stood there to pay respect to a man who had stood fast to a great principle, through good report and through evil report, though suffering, misrepresentation, and calumny; and when a man did that the friends of that principle were bound to do him honour. They promoted the principle by honouring its defenders. Men would learn to respect the man, and to emulate his example, whose conduct was so honoured. Oh, that that night would produce another Edward Miall, or some one like him in the next generation, to take up his work, to press forward in his cause, and stimulated by his example to cry "Exeelsior!" (Cheers.) After alluding to the loss which the country had sustained in being deprived of Mr. Miall's Parliamentary services, and comparing the former representative of Rochdale (Mr. Miall) with the present member for that borough, (Mr. Cobden), the rev. doctor continued to observe that Mr. Miall had attained what he had long since desired, and that even his political enemies—for personal enemies he could have none—would rejoice to see presented to him. He remembered Mr. Miall when other thoughts occupied his mind, and other prospects seemed before him. He never sympathised with those who thought he did wrong in leaving the ministry to accomplish a great purpose. (Cheers.) Every man was bound to serve God and his fellow creatures as best he could after serious deliberation and honest enquiry; and if a man—be his position what it might—thought it right to serve God and man in a particular line of service, he would do wrong if he did not follow the dictates of an enlightened judgment and a thoughtful mind. (Loud applause.) Reference had been made to the journal of which their friend had been so long the editor and proprietor. There had always been a freedom and manliness about that journal which he (Dr. Halley) had admired. Mr. Miall started that journal very much on his own responsibility. He felt he had a mission to accomplish, he felt compelled to do it, and nobly had he set to work and done it. He (Dr. Halley) could not refrain from paying this tribute to the service Mr. Miall had rendered to the great cause. He could not pay him the compliment of saying that he had read every line which had appeared in the *Nonconformist*, or that he agreed with all that Mr. Miall had written, though he very seldom differed with him. But he could not but value the honest, noble manner in which he had served the cause, never disgracing the columns of his journal by any personalities, by any fulsome flattery of his friends or foul aspersions of his foes, or by anything that could be called personal. He did not believe there was a newspaper in the world more free from personality than the *Nonconformist*. (Cheers.) The editor had something else to do than to talk about private character—something else to think about than the motives of other people—some nobler objects, which fired his zeal, engrossed his attention, and filled his heart. (Loud applause.) The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Heaton) had quoted a criticism of some one to the effect that the *Nonconformist* was too warlike, and that it was a reproduction of the *Times*. Was there a newspaper in existence in which there was less of a warlike spirit than the *Nonconformist*? When the people of this country seemed to be instigated by the most furious passions with regard to the natives of Hindostan, and talked about polishing off the Hindoos and destroying the people by wholesale, there was a calmness, a nobleness, about the *Nonconformist* which did one's heart good, and although it might be thought that this would make the paper unpopular in certain quarters, the editor

did not alter his tone to court the public applause. (Cheers.) And last winter, when some newspapers would have driven us into a war with North America, was there not another spirit in the *Nonconformist*, and were not the people of England indebted to it for the manner in which it treated the most solemn subject that was then before the world? As to its being a reproduction of the *Times*—(laughter)—there was one sense in which that charge was strictly true. Week by week the *Nonconformist* faithfully reproduced the week to its hearers, and long might it continue to do so. (Loud cheers.) The rev. doctor concluded an eloquent and stirring speech by the expression of a hope that Mr. Miall would live to see the fruits of his labours in the civil and religious freedom of England and Europe, and in a good old age reap the comfort of the testimonial that night presented to him. (Loud applause.)

Mr. J. J. COLMAN, of Norwich, said they had been told that night that they had met together to do honour to Mr. Miall. In a certain sense that was quite true, but in another sense they were there to honour themselves. It was a high privilege to have the opportunity of taking part in those proceedings. They were met not merely to present a testimonial to him for his private worth, but also to testify in his presence their appreciation of the great principles with which he had been so long identified. (Cheers.) He was glad to feel that the appeal which the Committee had addressed to the country had been heartily responded to. Only that morning he had received a letter from a gentleman in a town in one of the eastern counties expressing his great regret that it was not represented on the subscription list and enclosing a contribution to the fund. That communication was quite spontaneous, and there were many like it. He was sure that there were many who had never seen Mr. Miall's face, and had never had the privilege of his private friendship, who had taken part in this testimonial. (Cheers.) It was a privilege to have a man like Mr. Miall identified with the public defence of Nonconformity—a man not only of public worth but of high religious character. He trusted that the proceedings of that evening would convince those who read the report in the newspapers that they were not ashamed of their Nonconformity nor of their leaders. If people chose to malign and misrepresent them they were at liberty to do so. If Nonconformists did their part in spreading their principles, such occasions as the present would do them a great deal of good as well as being an agreeable tribute of their esteem for Mr. Miall. He hoped that they would all go from that meeting determined to do more and more for the dissemination of their principles. That the meeting would have this effect on Mr. Miall, he felt assured. Some testimonials were intended to be regarded as a gentle hint, that who received them had done their work and ought now to retire from public life. Not so in this case. (Cheers.) What Mr. Miall had been enabled to do in the past, was, he trusted, but a prelude to still greater successes in the future; and it was his earnest hope and prayer that he might be spared many years to aid the cause of religious emancipation, by his voice and pen, surrounded and encouraged by a zealous, earnest, and increasing band of those who would do God's work. (Applause.)

Mr. FRANK CROSSLEY, M.P., who entered the room towards the close of the proceedings, said he was not aware that he should be called upon to make a speech, but he had hastened from the House of Commons in the midst of an important debate, in order to testify his respect for the private and public character of Mr. Miall. He had taken in the *Nonconformist* for fifteen years, and could willingly give his testimony to its value. Mr. Miall had a wonderful facility of compressing a great deal into a few words, and if all men knew the value of time, they would appreciate that quality more than they did. He always read the Summary of the *Nonconformist*. If he was at any time so busy as not to be able to read the newspapers for a few days, he turned to that Summary, and he always found that he got a snatch at every important item of intelligence. (Cheers.) When he contested the West Riding of Yorkshire a great many questions were put to him on political matters, and some on religious matters. It was a thing previously unknown for a Nonconformist to contest the West Riding, and to expect to be returned seemed very ridiculous. (Laughter.) He did not, however, flinch from his principles, though he took care to show that he respected the opinions and principles of others. He remembered on one occasion the question being put to him whether he voted for Mr. Miall in 1847? He replied that he not only voted for him, but proposed him as a fit and proper person to represent Halifax in Parliament, and that a more honourable man he would never wish to meet with. (Cheers.) It was a great mistake, however, for people to fix any one's political or religious creed exactly after the pattern of the candidate they voted for. It was impossible for a man so to divide himself as to agree with everybody, and the only thing electors could do was to vote for the man whose opinions came nearest to their own. This was the principle he adopted at Halifax, and though he did not always agree with Mr. Miall, yet he looked upon him as one of the most straightforward, honourable and upright politicians he had ever had the good fortune to meet. He had had the pleasure of sitting side by side with Mr. Miall as the member for Rochdale, and he could testify that all who had the honour to know him during the time he was in Parliament respected him, and he made many friends and very few enemies. He (Mr. Crossley) never subscribed to a testimonial with greater pleasure than he had done to this, and he trusted their friend would live long and be useful in carrying on that great work to which he had devoted his life. (Applause.)

Mr. D. M'LAREN, of Edinburgh, in a short speech, testified to the interest with which many in Scotland regarded the present movement and the respect which they felt for the Editor of the *Nonconformist*. He had often had the question put to him why Mr. Miall was not now in Parliament, and had as frequently expressed his own opinion that there was no man now out of Parliament who would be so useful within the House as he would be. (Cheers.) He trusted that the Nonconformists of England would hasten to complete what they had begun, and not rest till they had returned Mr. Miall to the House of Commons.

The Rev. J. FLETCHER, of Christchurch, proposed a vote of thanks to the Executive Committee and officers

for their exertions in bringing this movement to a successful issue.

Mr. E. MIALL begged permission to second the motion. He felt greatly indebted to the gentlemen who were referred to for the time and energy they had devoted to the subject. He also begged once more to express the deep feeling of gratitude which he felt to those who had gathered round him on that occasion for the kind and generous manner in which they had recognised any portion of his services.

The resolution was carried, and briefly acknowledged by the Rev. H. RICHARD.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. W. HEATON, and seconded by Mr. W. EDWARDS, terminated the proceedings.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

(Continued from page 392.)

EXHIBITION UNITED SPECIAL SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.—The following ministers will preach at St. James's Hall during the month of May:—(Morning) May 4, Rev. John Pillans; May 11, Rev. A. Tidman, D.D.; May 18, Rev. Henry Allon; May 25, Rev. J. C. Harrison, (Afternoon) May 4, Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B.; May 11, Rev. John Graham; May 18, Rev. William Landels; May 25, Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B. (Evening) May 4, Rev. William Brock; May 11, Rev. Francis Tucker; May 18, Rev. Samuel Martin; May 25, Rev. A. C. Thomas.

SALTAIRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.—This edifice was erected at a cost of 12,000*l.* or 13,000*l.*, by Titus Salt, Esq., of Methley Park. During the last six months the church has been closed, as regards the holding of religious services, in order that the whole of the interior might be decorated in a style corresponding with the architectural composition, which we may state is Italian, or rather Italian-Greek. It is said that anything of the same kind more harmonious and beautiful in appearance than the inside of the church now is can scarcely be imagined. The church was re-opened for public worship on Sunday last, when the Rev. Robert Balgarnie, of Scarborough, preached. And yesterday (Tuesday) evening the young pastor, the Rev. H. M. Stallybrass, was to be ordained according to the simple form customary among Independent churches. All the sittings in Saltaire Congregational Church are free. It is the intention of Mr. Salt to erect a family mausoleum on the south side of the church.

SUFFOLK CONGREGATIONAL UNION.—The Suffolk Congregational Union held its annual meetings at the Congregational Chapel, Stowmarket, on Thursday and Friday last. On Thursday evening, the Rev. T. C. Finlayson, of Cambridge, preached, after which the members of various churches united in the observance of the Lord's Supper, the Rev. Joseph Steer, of Sudbury, presiding. On Friday morning, at seven o'clock, a prayer-meeting was held. During the forenoon and afternoon the ministers and delegates, about forty in number, met to discuss matters of interest and importance connected with the state of religion in the county, and to receive reports from their stations (eight in number), as also to make grants from the funds of the Union for their further support and encouragement. In the evening a public meeting was held, which was presided over by the treasurer of the Union, Mr. Manning Prentice, of Stowmarket. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Jones, of Ipswich; John Browne, of Wrentham; J. Jenkins, of Needham Market; and R. Roberts, of East Bergholt. Very much interest was excited by the reference to the Bicentenary Commemoration. Collections were made towards the funds of the Union at the close of the services.

Foreign and Colonial.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

The latest dates from New York are to April 23.

The most interesting news is the visit of M. Mercier, the French Minister, to Richmond. The *Richmond Examiner* states that the object of M. Mercier's visit has not definitely transpired, but that he is reported to have unofficially expressed great interest to ascertain what commercial treaties the Confederate Government was disposed to make with France. "The Southern people," says the *Richmond Examiner*, "would applaud a treaty securing to France an equal right with Southern vessels in the carrying trade to Southern ports, provided France would raise the blockade." The *Richmond Despatch* says that M. Mercier has opened negotiations with the Confederate Secretaries of State. The Confederate Congress has determined not to adjourn until the termination of M. Mercier's mission. Any kind of arrangement will be made with the Confederate President. The *Richmond Despatch* considers this to be a perfect acknowledgment by France of the independence of the Confederate States. The French *Constitutionnel* asserts that the French Minister has had a long conference with President Davis at Richmond, and says:—"The step taken by M. Mercier is entirely of a political character, and is known by President Lincoln."

President Davis is reported to be in command at Yorktown. The Confederates had made a sortie in

strong force, with the object of turning the left flank of the Federal army. General M'Clellan telegraphs to the Federal Government that the Confederates were repulsed by General Smith. The Federal gunboats have shelled Yorktown without effect. A letter, dated Fortress Monroe, April 16, states that the Confederates had been actively engaged building large fortifications on the Gloucester side of York River, about two miles from Yorktown, and within sight of the Federal gunboats, but at such a distance that they could not be interrupted. On the 15th, however, a 100-pounder Parrott was brought to bear upon the working parties with success. The Confederate Government has made a requisition on the slaveowners of Prince George and Surrey counties for one-half of their negroes to erect fortifications at Williamsburg for the protection of Yorktown in the rear.

There is news of the other armies of the Potomac. General Banks's division continued rapidly advancing in the direction of Richmond, had reached Newmarket, and was preparing to cross the Rappahannock. General Jackson has retreated from the Shenandoah Valley to Gordonsville, before General Banks' advance columns. General M'Dowell has occupied Fredericksburg, where there are no fortifications, and it is supposed that he and Banks would shortly effect a junction.

Federal accounts confirm the capture of Fort Pulaski, with forty-seven guns, and a quantity of ammunition, after thirty hours' bombardment. The loss on both sides was only one man killed and three wounded. The official account of the capture describes it as a "purely military operation, the result of laborious and scientific preparation, and of consummate skill and bravery in execution."

The Merrimac remained at Norfolk, repairing damages caused by the bursting of her large gun. Her supremacy has well nigh come to an end. The Federal iron-clad steamer Galena had sailed from New York for Fortress Monroe. Her burden is 738 tons; displacement, 1,294 tons; draft, 11 7/12 ft.; and cost, 235,250 dollars. She carries two rifled 100-pounders and four 9-inch guns. She will, it is said, proceed up to Yorktown to take part in the siege, leaving the Monitor to look after the Merrimac.

The *Star* Special Correspondent at Washington sends a detailed account of what the Americans are doing in the construction of an iron fleet. Under the Congressional appropriations, 23,000,000 dols. are devoted to the construction of iron-clad batteries; and to this sum Congress will add, if it has not already done so, 7,000,000 dols., which have been voted for the improvement of fortifications. It is fully expected that by the end of this year the Federal Government will have forty iron-plated ships afloat—most, if not all of them, of a class against which, in the opinion of the correspondent, our Warrior or the French *La Gloire* would have no more chance than had the Cumberland against the Merrimac. The experiments which have been made, and the experience which has been gained in real warfare, seem to show that solid plates are by no means so effective for defence as successive layers of plates, with packing of timber and caulking between. Shots which smashed the solid plates could only indent those which were fixed in layers. It appears that the Americans do not believe in breech-loading cannon; but that they are casting their guns of a much larger size, and with a great weight of metal at the breech.

An "Occasional Correspondent" of the *Times* writes from Washington, April 14:—

Among the steamers put into fighting trim is the *Vanderbilt*, which is, they say, to run twenty-two knots an hour. Her steam machinery has been protected by rails in the most ingenious way, and also by cotton bales and hay. Her prow has been armed with a formidable nose, with the intention to poke it right into the side of the Merrimac. It consists of an immense framework of oak timber, strengthened by iron, and its edge is made of steel, and very sharp. They have now placed two guns close together, slightly diverging, which are to be fired both at the same moment, in the Monitor. Thus the two balls will strike the armour of the Merrimac at one and the same place, and by this means they hope to break it by their admirable wrought-iron balls, which are perfectly round and polished like glass, and have no point like those on board the Merrimac. Two hundred of these expensive balls are placed for use around the iron tower. In the last fight three balls of the Merrimac struck the Monitor almost at the same place, and right on a joint where the head of a big nail was protruding. The whole effect of these three balls was to flatten the nail a little.

There is no very special news from the West. It has been ascertained that General Beauregard has 100,000 men at Corinth, and is fortifying most extensively. He has been lately reinforced at Corinth from Memphis and New Orleans. The *Richmond Dispatch* publishes a telegram from General Beauregard, stating that he was intrenched at Corinth, prepared to defy the Federals, whatever numbers they might bring against him. General Mitchell continues his advance in the west.

Southern accounts state that the Federals have attacked Forts Jackson and Phillip, which guard the approaches to New Orleans.

The Southern journals report that an engagement has taken place at Elizabeth City with a portion of Burnside's expedition. Heavy loss was sustained on both sides. The Federals have commenced an attack on Fort Macon, Savannah. Southern newspapers urge a vigorous defence of Savannah city.

Intelligence from New Mexico confirms the report of the Federal victory at Apache Glen. The troops under Colonel Slough captured 100 prisoners; and from 100 to 200 of the rebels were killed and wounded.

The Federal loss was about eighteen to twenty killed, and thirty to forty wounded.

Havannah letters of the 12th ult. report that the Nashville, arrived at Nassau on the 30th of March in ballast, was rechristened the Thomas W. Wragg, and hoisted the British flag. When the last advices left she was alongside the Southwick steamer, which had arrived from London with an assorted cargo. Confederate schooners were frequently arriving.

The *Star* correspondent with M'Dowell's division in Virginia, mentions that the "contrabands" were coming into the Federal camp in such numbers as to be a serious cause of anxiety.

At a State Convention just held in the great Free State of Illinois, for the amendment of the Constitution, it was resolved that for the future no negro or mulatto should be allowed to migrate into or settle in the state, and that no negro or mulatto previously domiciled within its boundaries should have the right of suffrage, or hold any public office whatever. This amendment has yet to be submitted to the vote of the whole people; but, considering that most, if not all, of the Western States have adopted a similar law of exclusion against the African races, it seems most probable that the people of Illinois will ratify it, and that a new belt of fertile land will be shut against poor Sambo.

The New York correspondent of the *Times* says, on the Slavery question:—

It is possible that the Southern Confederacy may achieve its independence with or without foreign intervention, but it is no longer probable that Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri can form a portion of it. There will either be a cotton and a slaveholding Union confined to the Gulf States, or there will be a re-absorption of those States, slavery and all, into the old and triumphant Union, re-established by the bravery of the Irish and Germans of the Federal army. In either case slavery must disappear from the Border lands, and the "everlasting nigger," or the "eternal contraband," as it is the fashion to call him, will trouble this republic in a new fashion as irritating as the old, and raise the question of black pauperism as distinguished from that of black slavery.

The Whitworth battery presented to the Federal Government by American citizens in England was among the artillery before Yorktown.

FRANCE.

The *Patrie* believes that General Goyon has arrived in Paris, and states that General Hagues will take the command at Rome *ad interim*. But the *Constitutionnel* says that the return of the general will lead to no change:—"We are persuaded that nothing has been changed, because nothing can be changed, in the policy of the French Government towards Rome." The *Patrie* asserts that General Goyon will be shortly nominated a Senator.

General Goyon's recall has, however, produced perfect consternation amongst the clerical party, not only on account of its gravity, but of its having been entirely unexpected. The Empress, who is a very impetuous member of that party, is deeply grieved and offended at it; and to show her displeasure with her august lord and master, she, it is whispered, declined to "assist" at a grand dinner and ball given in honour of the Queen of Holland, who is now on a visit at the Tuileries.

Another pamphlet on the Roman question has appeared. The author is M. Pietri, a Corsican, and trusted agent of the Emperor, who arranged the "vote" in Nice and Savoy, and has recently been travelling in Sardinia, and who argues, first, that the occupation of Rome by France must cease; secondly, that the substitution of any other Power would be a declaration of war on France; thirdly, that to say that the Pope will be in danger is futile; and, fourthly, that to remove the Papacy to another city is to destroy it.

It is very positively said in official circles that the French and English Ministers at Washington have received identical instructions to attempt a "moral intervention," exclusive of any idea of a forcible intervention, in the hope of putting an end to the civil war.

The *L'Esprit Public* says:—"There is a question of sending Marshal Niel to Rome with military and diplomatic powers. It is said that he will be charged to conciliate if possible the protection which France owes to the Holy See with the rights of the Italian nation." [The Marshal is, however, at the present moment rusticating in Scotland.]

The King of Holland has arrived on a visit to the Emperor.

ITALY.

Victor Emmanuel continues to be enthusiastically received at Naples. The King has received the authorities at a court dinner. The English and French admirals, with their respective staffs, were invited. M. Benedetti, the French ambassador to the Italian court, has arrived. The district of Avellino and other provinces have sent in addresses of congratulation to the King. The decree for an amnesty has been signed. Orders have been given by his Majesty for the return to their owners of all articles pledged at the Mont de Piété for sums under four ducats. The King has visited the theatre, and was received with great enthusiasm.

Prince Napoleon is expected at Naples on a visit to King Victor Emmanuel.

King Victor Emmanuel has been receiving a deputation of Senators and Deputies at Naples, who presented him with an address. In the course of his reply the King alluded, after his direct and unconstrained fashion, to the present condition of Rome in regard to Italy. Rome, he declared, as the centre of

conspiracy, prevented the full establishment of tranquillity throughout the kingdom; but he assured the deputation that, much as the Italians might desire to recover Rome, the French were quite as anxious to terminate their occupation of it. On Saturday the King paid a visit to the French fleet, and subsequently addressed a letter to the Emperor Napoleon, thanking him for his personal courtesy and his sympathy with the Italian cause. The King, in his letter, speaks of the deep emotion awakened in his own breast by the reception given him in the Southern provinces, and declares that the demonstrations made towards him afford a complete and triumphant refutation of the calumnies of enemies. "We shall convince Europe," Victor Emmanuel concludes, "that the idea of unity rests on solid bases, and is thoroughly graven upon the hearts of all Italians."

It is asserted that Menotti Garibaldi has resigned the command of the Genoese Volunteers. It is believed that this corps will be disbanded.

The subscription to the Great Canal Irrigation scheme in Upper Italy has been two and a half times covered in eight days. This has produced a very favourable effect.

ROME.

Letters from Rome of the 26th state that sixty French bishops and all the French cardinals, with the exception probably of M. de Bonald, are expected in the city for the purpose of attending the approaching assembly.

A Turin letter, of the 24th, in the *Presse*, speaking of the assembly of bishops at Rome for the canonisation of the Japanese Martyrs, states that the Pope has been induced by the Cardinals to designate his successor and that the whole of the Sacred College has promised to respect his choice.

That choice has fallen on Cardinal de Angelis, Archbishop of Parma, who, after the entry of the Italian troops into the Marches and Umbria, was ordered to Turin from the manner in which passions were excited, and public order put in peril by his conduct. The evident proof of what is here stated results from a long address from the Neapolitan episcopacy to Cardinal de Angelis, signed by about fifty bishops, and reproduced by the *Osservatore Romano*. The cardinal is saluted as "Eminentissimo Principe," and is everywhere compared to St. Paul.

AUSTRIA.

A communication was made by the Government to the Lower House of the Council of the Empire on the 1st of May, stating that a bill on Ministerial responsibility was to be discussed by the Chambers according to constitutional rule.

PRUSSIA.

The elections for the Chamber of Deputies took place at Berlin on the 6th. All the members for Berlin in the former Chamber have been re-elected, except Herr Kuhne, in whose stead Herr von Hennig Pionchatt, belonging to the Party of Progress, has been chosen.

MEXICO.

The Paris journals publish a despatch from Vera Cruz, dated the 3rd inst., stating that France not approving of the convention of Soledad, the French troops at Tehuacan would return to Vera Cruz on the 4th inst., and set out again for the city of Mexico on the 15th instant. According to the same despatch, Admiral Jurien de la Gravière was to take possession of the forts along the coasts. A perfectly good understanding existed between Admiral Jurien de la Gravière and General Lorencez. The Mexican troops had re-occupied the mountain gorges on the road to Mexico. The greater part of the foreigners engaged in trade were leaving the country.

A despatch from Brest, says further reinforcements of troops and supplies of war matériel are to be despatched to Mexico.

The *Moniteur* publishes a letter from Mexico commenting upon the intolerable conduct of the Mexican Government, and the probability that the French troops will not delay marching on the city of Mexico.

The Spanish Government is about to send a reinforcement of 4,000 soldiers to Havana as a precautionary measure.

INDIA.

The Calcutta merchants have petitioned in favour of, and the Bombay merchants against, the repeal of the import duties. The Government is said to be divided on the subject. The majority are for doing away with the income-tax.

Mr. Morehead has declined a seat in the Supreme Council on account of ill health.

The cotton crop in Bombay is stated to be shorter and of worse quality than that of last year.

Thomas Buckland, attorney of the Supreme Court of Calcutta, has been sentenced to eight years' penal servitude for forgery.

The following telegram has been received:—

"CALCUTTA, April 16.

"Mr. Laing has made his financial statement. He anticipates a surplus of 1,500,000.

"The import duties on piece goods are reduced to 5 per cent., and on yarn to 3 1/4 per cent. The reduction is to come into operation from the 23rd April."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The King of the Belgians is again seriously ill. Count de Chambord has just left Venice for Rome, on a visit to the ex-King Francis.

The King of Portugal has officially announced his approaching marriage.

The Viceroy of Egypt arrived on Thursday at

Messina, and left shortly after for Naples. The Viceroy comes to the London Exhibition.

The Sultan's voyage to England is again mooted. This journey will, it is said, be undertaken in company with M. Fuad Pasha. The Sultan will, it is said, pay a visit to Paris on his return home, and will not be absent longer than a month.

KOSSUTH'S ONLY DAUGHTER died at Nervi, near Genoa, in her eighteenth year, on the 22nd ult., after an illness that has long been cause of deep anxiety to her father. She was buried, on the 24th of April, in the English Protestant Cemetery at Genoa.

Miscellaneous News.

THE GREAT ARMSTRONG GUN.—We understand that a crack or fissure has made its unwelcome appearance in the large Armstrong gun at Shoeburyness. The trials to which it had been put are extraordinary. Captain Dahlgren would certainly never dream of exposing one of his soda-water bottles of equal dimensions to the effects of charges of 80lbs. and 90lbs. of powder with shot of 150lbs.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*

RAISING OF LONDON OMNIBUS FARES.—On Thursday, pursuant to public notice, the London General Omnibus Company raised their fares on nearly the whole line of omnibuses. In some cases the rise amounted to doubling of the fares. The general fare from the Bank to Charing-cross, or intervening distances, has hitherto been 3d.; but the lowest charge for the shortest distance is now 6d. The twopenny omnibuses on the south side of the Thames have also raised their fares, going as high as 4d.

OLDHAM ELECTION.—The election for the borough of Oldham took place on Monday. The proceedings were of a formal character, Mr. John Tomlinson Hibbert being returned without opposition. In the course of his address the new member said he was in favour of the abolition of church-rates. As a Churchman he thought the Church would not be weakened, but derive strength, from being more dependent upon the voluntary principle, to which it must look for that extension which was rendered desirable by the growth of population.

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.—On Friday the Japanese Ambassadors had an interview with Earl Russell, by appointment, at the Foreign Office. The visit was purely complimentary. In the course of the conversation the Secretary of State told them that he had presented the letter of the Tycoon to her Majesty, and they expressed their grateful sense of the considerable kindness of his Lordship for having made arrangements enabling them to witness the ceremony of opening the International Exhibition on Thursday, with which they were greatly delighted. They are to remain in England about a month.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY on Friday opened its Exhibition for private view. It is said to contain many works of high merit and of interest, but not one that can fairly be called a great and pre-eminent feature. The annual banquet given by the President and Members of the Royal Academy, took place on Saturday. The Crown Prince of Prussia expressed the strong sympathy he felt for this country, and, after alluding to the loss they had sustained by the death of the Prince Consort, he remarked that the Princess Royal was one of the first representatives of English art in Prussia. Admirable speeches were also delivered by the Duke of Cambridge, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl Granville, and Lord Palmerston, the noble Lord dwelling more especially on the influence of art in ennobling and dignifying the national character. "It is needless to say," remarked Lord Palmerston, "that the cultivation of the fine arts is a kind of cosmopolitan freemasonry; it acts as a bond of union between different nations, who are taught by rivalry in these arts a generous spirit of emulation, and also mutual and reciprocal admiration."

EXECUTION OF MARY TINNEY.—The revolting spectacle of the public execution of a woman was witnessed at Dumfries on Tuesday. The culprit had murdered a woman who was her neighbour, and the circumstances of the case were such as to preclude the Home Secretary from recommending the Crown to exercise its prerogative of mercy. A singular incident is recorded in the narrative of the execution. As the procession was on its way to the scaffold, a messenger arrived in great haste and delivered a letter to the Governor of the gaol. The attendants concluded that a reprieve had arrived from the Home Office, and the procession was stopped for a few moments, but the Governor found that the letter merely contained an extremely impertinent request from a person connected with a London evening paper, to be furnished with the "very latest" particulars of the last moments and execution of the culprit, by telegraph! The arrival of the letter at such an unfortunate moment could hardly have been foreseen by the writer; but the astounding effrontery that dictated it has been properly punished by the publication of the document.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been seriously ill, but is now out of danger.

A clodhopper went to the clergyman of his parish and told him, with great symptoms of consternation, that he had seen a ghost. "In what shape did it appear?" asked his reverence. "For all the world, sir, like a great donkey." "Go home, go home, and hold your tongue," said the clergymen, "you are a timid creature, and have evidently been frightened at your own shadow."

Gleanings.

The Crown Prince of Prussia left England on Tuesday.

To a friend who had married a lady who was on the point of taking the veil, Jerrold said:—"Ah! she evidently thought you better than nun!"

A correspondent of the *Times* earnestly warns governesses not to proceed to Australia upon speculation.

The *Dial* newspaper is now published at the *Morning Star* office. The latter journal has consequently dropped its second title.

Sir John Herschel contributes to the May number of the *Cornhill* the first book of the "Iliad," done into English hexameters.

A few Sundays ago, at one of the fashionable churches in London, the choir sang a hymn to a tune which goes as follows:—"And take thy pil—and take thy pil—and take thy pil—and take thy pilgrim home."

Samples of cotton of a very superior quality were brought home in the last West India mail packet from Jamaica, where it was grown.

It appears from a Parliamentary return just out, that during the year 1861 no fewer than 1,104 inquests were held in the metropolis upon the bodies of infants.

An eminent and witty prelate was once asked if he did not think such a one followed his conscience. "Yes," said his lordship, "I think he follows it as a man does a horse in a gig, he drives it first."

In Europe we hire men to be "mutes" at our funerals; in the East they hire women to make as much noisy lamentation as possible. Perhaps there is not much to choose in the way of good sense between the two institutions.

It is stated that the Right Rev. Brigadier-General Polk, who laid aside his crozier to take up the sword, at the beginning of the Secession war, has been relieved of his military functions by General Beauregard.

Mrs. S. C. Hall is very anxious to let her friends know that she is not responsible for anything which may appear in the *St. James's Magazine*, as she has ceased to be its editor.

A correspondent of the *Times* suggests whether the symptoms of arsenic poisoning and diphtheria are not analogous, and that that which has been set down as diphtheria may not have been nothing more nor less than arsenic poisoning.

Hollow metallic canes, filled with condensed gas, are becoming the rage in some of the European cities. The bearer has only to turn a small nipple and apply his match, when he will instantly find himself furnished with a torch which will light him for several hours.

A subscription is now in progress in the Isle of Wight for the purpose of erecting a monumental tablet to the memory of the Prince Consort in the Church of St. Thomas, at Newport, in that island.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

WILLIAMS.—April 29, the wife of Mr. C. Williams, Carlton-Moorland, near Newark, of a son.

DORLING.—May 1, the wife the Rev. William Dorling, of 3, Fairlight-villas, King Edward's-road, Hackney, of a son.

MOSES.—May 3, at Lynton, the wife of the Rev. R. G. Moses, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

MITCHELL—RICHARDS.—April 21, at Broadmead Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. H. Quick, Joseph, youngest son of Mr. Jos. Mitchell, of Kenn, to Sarah Ann, only daughter of Mr. C. Richards, of Bristol.

PHILLIPS—WALTER.—April 24, at King-street Baptist Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. Mr. Bosworth, John Phillips, Esq., of Swansea, to Kate, eldest daughter of Richard Walter, Esq., of Ashley-road, St. Paul's.

CLEAR—ROWLAND.—April 24, at the Congregational Chapel, Henley-on-Thames, by the father of the bride, Mr. Wilfred S. Clear, B.A., of Basingstoke, Cambridgeshire, to Miss Susannah Rowland.

PORTER—KOWLEY.—April 24, at Weld Chapel, Southgate, by the Rev. James Baird, M.A., George William Porter, Esq., of Colney Hatch, to Isabel Simpson, youngest daughter of the late Francis Rowley, Esq.

COLLINS—BARBER.—April 27, at the Independent Chapel, Chestow, by the Rev. T. Rees, Alfred Collins, to Sarah Barber, both of Moulton.

ROBERTSON—YOUNG.—April 23, at Lendal Chapel, York, by the Rev. A. B. Attenborough, Mr. John Robertson, to Eliza Young, of Perth.

EVANS—CASSON.—April 29, at Dundee, by the Rev. Robert Lang, A.M., the Rev. Maurice J. Evans, B.A., to Helen Christina, only daughter of Alexander Casson, Esq., merchant, Dundee.

SANDERS—TURNER.—April 29, at Highfield Chapel, Huddersfield, by the Rev. H. Sanders, of Wakefield, Mr. John Sanders, to Ellen Louisa, fifth daughter of the late Samuel William Turner, Esq., solicitor, Sheffield.

CROWTHER—EVANS.—April 29, at the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, Great Malvern, Mr. Benjamin Crowther, Bradley, Yorkshire, to Mary Ann, second daughter of Mr. L. Evans, Charlotte-street, Bristol.

DAVIS—THOMAS.—April 29, at Blencoad Chapel, by the Rev. J. Williams, Newcastle-Emlyn, assisted by the Rev. W. Thomas, Bwlchnewydd, the Rev. W. Manon Davis, minister of the said chapel, to Miss Thomas, of Talog.

PAYNE—ORSMOND.—April 30, at Hare-court Chapel, Canonbury, by the Rev. W. Kirkus, LL.B., Mr. W. Payne, Market-place, Wallingford, to Mary, daughter of the late Rev. J. M. Ormond, of Tahiti.

RAWLINGS—FOSTER.—April 30, at Cambridge, by the Rev. W. Robinson, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Gotch, Edward Rawlings, Esq., of Champion-hill, near London, to Agnes Elizabeth, only daughter of George Ebenezer Foster, Esq., of Brooklands, Cambridge.

PHILIPSON—BRUCE.—April 30, at the United Presbyterian Church, Blackett street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, John, son of G. H. Philipson, Esq., of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to Williamina Bennett, daughter of the Rev. J. C. Bruce, LL.D.

GILL—MIAL.—April 30, at Queen's-road Chapel, Dalston, by the father of the bride, Mr. Frederick Gill, of Richmond-road, Dalston, to Louisa Margaret, elder daughter of the Rev. W. Mial.

NALL—BEARDSALL.—May 1, at Union Chapel, Oxford-road, Manchester, by the Rev. A. M. Laren, B.A., Joseph Nall, Esq., of Oxford-villas, High-street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock, to Cordelia Maria Beardsall, of Manchester.

TAYLOR—FORRITT.—May 1, at Prince's-street Chapel, Norwich, by the Rev. John Alexander, Mr. William Henry Taylor, Town Close, to Mary, youngest daughter of Mr. David Forritt, of Newmarket-road, Norwich, and late of Burnham Market.

BIRKS—FERRIMAN.—May 1, at Halford Independent Chapel, by the Rev. R. Berry, Mr. Peter Birks, of Rusholme, to Miss Ferriman, of Spring Cottage, Whitworth, near Rochdale.

HEWGILL—JONES.—May 1, at Belgrave Chapel, Leeds, by the Rev. G. W. Conder, the Rev. W. Hewgill, M.A., of Warley, near Halifax, to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Mr. S. F. Jones, of Headingley.

TWIFIL—HANBURY.—May 3, at the Independent Chapel, Chepstow, by the Rev. T. Rees, Joseph Twifil, to Mary Hanbury, both of Llanvihangel Tor Mynydd.

JAMES—BRETT.—May 6, by license, at the Congregational Chapel, Bedford-street, Stroud, by the Rev. W. Wheeler, the Rev. John James, Park-street Chapel, Llanelli, to Mary Jane, eldest daughter of Mr. James Brett, Bailly, Stroud.

HUSSARD—MEDCALF.—At the Independent Chapel, Driffield, by the Rev. J. Hutchin, of Frodingham, Mr. James Hussard, draper, Frodingham, to Miss Margaret Medcalf, of Bursill.

DEATHS.

RYLE.—April 21, at Leamington, very suddenly, John Ryle, Esq., formerly M.P. for Macclesfield, and father of the Rev. J. C. Ryle, vicar of Stradbroke, in the seventy-eighth year of his age.

CORNEY.—April 23, at Hazel-grove, Cheshire, the Rev. G. Corney, late of Barking, Essex, in his sixty-eighth year.

STEPHENSON.—April 29, at his residence, 7, Upton-road, Kilburn, G. D. O. Stephenson, Esq., in his seventy-ninth year; the senior deacon of the Church under the pastoral care of the Rev. J. C. Galloway, A.M.

LEGGE.—April 29, Alfred Owen, infant son of Mr. Alfred O. Legge, of Lower Broughton, Manchester, aged four-and-a-half months.

PRENTICE.—May 2, at Norwich, aged thirty, Ellen Crisp, the beloved wife of Samuel Prentice, of Stowmarket, and eldest daughter of Mr. W. F. Paul.

WIGHAM.—May 2, at Salisbury-road, Edinburgh, Mr. John Wigham, a member of the Society of Friends, who was during a long life identified with every movement having for its object the welfare of the people, and was one of the Queen's Commissioners on the Prison Board for Scotland, in which he took a lively and efficient interest. The Maternity Hospital, and the educational institutions of Edinburgh, also claimed his active support.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—PREMONITORY SYMPTOMS.—What pain and danger would be spared to mankind if the first departures from healthy action were noticed and suitably redressed. The digestive or circulatory organs are usually foremost in indicating coming sickness, and should be rectified without loss of time by Holloway's Purifying Pills, which surpass every other known remedy for rapidly restoring ease and order to the system. Young and old, rich and poor, strong and feeble, may alike use them with safety and advantage. They strengthen impaired constitutions in a wonderful manner. These pills are fortunately found everywhere, and their very moderate price places them within the reach of all classes who must consider health more precious than silver or gold.—[Advertisement.]

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, London, Monday, May 5.

The supply of English wheat fresh up to this morning's market was small, and, although offered on lower terms than on this day week, it was not disposed of at a late hour. Factors were willing to submit to a reduction of 2s per qr; but the bids were below that. Business in foreign wheat was quite in retail, and prices were fully 1s per qr lower than on Monday last. Flour is 1s per barrel cheaper. The barley trade was slow for all sorts, at about previous prices. Peas and beans were firm, and fully as dear. In addition to the quantity of foreign oats reported, there has been a good arrival fresh up for this morning, which together makes a large show of samples. The best descriptions of corn maintain the prices of last week; but secondary and inferior qualities are difficult of sale, although factors were willing to make some slight concession to make progress in sales.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 8d to 8½d; household ditto, 6d to 7½d.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, May 5.

The supply of foreign beasts and calves here to-day was very limited, of sheep seasonably good—the latter, from Germany, were held at 23s to 32s each. On the whole sales progressed steadily, at quite last Monday's quotations. In home-bred beasts there was a decided falling off in the arrivals fresh up this morning, and the quality of the stock was very prime. Nearly all breeds commanded a steady sale, at an advance in the prices compared with last week, of 2d per 8lbs, and at which a fair clearance was effected. The best Scots and crosses realised 4s 4d per 8lbs. The receipts from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire comprised 2,900 Scots, crosses, and shorthorns; from other parts of England, 60 various breeds; and from Scotland, 420 Scots and crosses. No beasts reached us from Ireland. The show of sheep was somewhat extensive, and nearly all breeds appeared in prime condition. On the whole the mutton trade ruled firm, at fully former prices. Nearly the whole of the sheep were out of the wool; consequently our quotations now refer solely to shorn qualities. The best Downs and half-breeds realised quite 4s 8d per 8lbs. Good and prime lambs were in full average supply and steady request, but inferior breeds moved off slowly. The quotations were from 5s 4d to 5s per 8lbs. About 800 came to hand from the Isle of Wight. Calves, the supply of which was moderate, met a steady sale at the rates of last week. The top figure was 5s 6d per 8lbs. There was but a dull inquiry for pigs, at late quotations.

Advertisements.

PIANOFORTE EXTRAORDINARY at

MOORE and MOORE'S, 104, Bishopsgate-street Within. These are first-class Pianos, of rare excellence, possessing exquisite improvements recently applied, and which effect a grand, a pure, and beautiful quality of tone that stands unrivalled. Prices from Eighteen Guineas. First-class pianos for hire, with easy terms of purchase.

LOCK STITCH SEWING MACHINES.

Manufactured by the Wheeler and Wilson Manufacturing Company, with Recent Improvements. The Favourite in Families and with Dressmakers.

"This Machine ranks highest on account of elasticity, permanence, beauty, and general desirableness of the stitching when done, and the wide range of its application."—Report of American Institute, New York.

In addition to the ordinary stitch, it will hem (turning its own hem), make a fell seam, gather, quilt (no marking required), tuck, and blind. The same Machine will sew the finest muslin, or the thickest pilot cloth, making a stitch alike on each side of the fabric which cannot be unravelled, and is more durable than hand sewing.

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WITH THE BEST ARTICLES AT
DEANE'S
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A PRICED FURNISHING LIST SENT POST-FREE.

DEANE & CO., LONDON-BRIDGE.
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1700.

DEANE'S TABLE CUTLERY, celebrated for more than 160 years, remains unrivalled for quality and cheapness. The Stock is most extensive and complete, affording a choice suited to the taste and means of every purchaser. The following are some of the prices for Ivory Handled Knives—each blade being of the best steel, bearing our name, and warranted:—

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Table Knives, per doz.	14 0	16 0	19 0	23 0	25 0	29 0	33 0
Dessert ditto „	12 0	12 0	15 0	18 0	20 0	23 0	28 0
Carvers, Joint, per pair	4 6	5 6	6 6	7 6	8 0	9 0	11 0

ELECTRO-PLATED SPOONS and FORKS.
The best manufacture, well finished, strongly plated. Every article stamped with our mark, and guaranteed.

	FIDDLE.	REED.	KING'S.	LILY.
	Second quality.	Best	Second	Best
Per Dozen.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Table Spoons ..	38 40	44 58	54 68	58 68
Table Forks ..	31 38	44 56	54 64	56 64
Dessert Forks ..	23 29	32 40	37 46	40 46
Dessert Spoons ..	24 30	32 42	37 48	42 48
Tea Spoons ..	14 6	18 22	26 32	28 32

DEANE and CO.'S NEW ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE and priced FURNISHING LIST may be had on application, or post free. This List embraces the leading articles from all the various departments of their establishment, and is arranged to facilitate purchasers in the selection of goods. It comprises Table Cutlery, Electro-plate, Lamps, Baths, Fenders, Fire-irons, Iron Bedsteads, Bedding, Britannia Metal, Copper, Tin, and Brass Goods, Culinary Utensils, Turnery, Brushes, Mats, &c.

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OSLER'S GLASS CHANDELIERS.
Wall Lights, and Mantelpiece Lusters for Gas and Candles.

Glass Dinner Services, for Twelve persons, from £7 15 0
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All articles marked in plain figures.

Ornamental Glass, English and Foreign, suitable for Presents. Mess, Export, and Furnishing Orders promptly executed.

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EDWARDES BROTHERS AND BURKE,
WARWICK HOUSE,

Nos. 142 and 144, Regent-street, and 29, 30, and 31, Warwick-street, London, W., beg to inform the Nobility and Gentry that they manufacture at their various Establishments in Italy and Belgium, as well as at the above address, every description of Marble, Stone, and Granite Work, at the lowest possible prices. Their Galleries contain specimens of ALL Foreign and British Marble quarried, in Chimney-pieces from 25s. to 300 guineas each; MONUMENTS and TABLETS, from 5s. to Head and Foot Stones, from 30s. each.

Estimates and Drawings upon application.

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Beg to caution the Public against Spurious Imitations of their world-renowned

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Purchasers should
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"THE ONLY GOOD SAUCE."

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PLUMBE'S GENUINE ARROWROOT.
Price 1s. 6d. per Pound.

Eminent physicians (see testimonials) greatly prefer this to Corn Flour or other Farinaceous Foods as a Diet for Infants, Invalids, and for general purposes. Used in most of the Hospitals in town and country.

Sold Wholesale and Retail by A. S. Plumbe, 3, Allie-place, Great Allie-street, E., London.

Retailed in London by Snow, Paternoster-row; Morgan and Son, Sloane-street; Williams and Lloyd, Moorgate-street; Smith, Keen's-row; Boville, Park-terrace, Regent's-park; Ford and Son, Islington; and others.

TRADE



MARK.

BROWN and POLSON'S
PATENT CORN FLOUR.
In Packets, 3d.; and Tins, 1s.

As double profit is allowed upon the sale of numerous imitations, families would do well to consider the substitution of inferior kinds by refusing to receive any but the packages which bear BROWN and POLSON'S name in full.

"INFANTS' FOOD."

"To one dessert-spoonful of Brown and Polson, mixed with a wine-glassful of cold water, add half a pint of boiling water; stir over the fire for five minutes; sweeten slightly; but if the infant is being brought up by hand, this food should then be mixed with milk—not otherwise, as the use of two different milks would be injurious."

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Silversmiths, Electro-Silver Platers,
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"None are genuine unless their Corporate and Trade Mark, 'the Sun,' (granted to their father by the Cutlery Company of Sheffield, June 26, 1835,) is stamped on the blades; they are of the first quality, with secure ivory handles, and do not come loose in hot water; the difference in price is occasioned solely by the superior quality and thickness of the ivory handles."

	Ordinary Quality.	Medium Quality.	Best Quality.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Two Dozen Full-Size Table Knives, Ivory Handles	3 4 0	3 6 0	4 12 0
One-and-a-half Dozen Full-Size Cheese Knives, Ivory Handles ..	1 4 0	1 14 6	2 11 0
One Pair Regular Meat Carvers ..	0 7 6	0 11 0	0 15 6
One Pair Extra Size ditto	0 8 6	0 12 0	0 16 6
One Pair Poultry Carvers	0 7 6	0 11 0	0 15 6
One Steel for Sharpening	0 3 0	0 4 0	0 6 0
Complete Service ..	4 14 6	6 18 6	9 16 6

MANUFACTORY—QUEEN'S CUTLERY WORKS, SHEFFIELD.

THE BEST SHOW OF IRON BEDSTEADS
in the KINGDOM is WILLIAM S. BURTON'S. He has FIVE LARGE ROOMS devoted to the exclusive show of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Children's Cots, with appropriate Bedding and Bed-hangings. Portable Folding Bedsteads from 11s.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with Dovetail joints and patent sacking, from 12s. 6d.; and Cots from 15s. 6d. each; handsome Ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from £2 13s. 6d. to £20.

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—The real NICKEL SILVER, introduced more than twenty-five years ago by WILLIAM S. BURTON, when PLATED by the patent process of Messrs. Elkington and Co., is beyond all comparison the very best article next to sterling silver that can be employed as such, either usefully or ornamentally, as by no possible test can it be distinguished from real silver.

A small useful set guaranteed of first quality for finish and durability as follows:—

	Fiddle or Old Silver Pattern.	Thread or Bruns-wick Pattern.	Lily Pattern.	King's or Military &c.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
12 Table Forks ..	1 13 0	2 4 0	2 10 0	2 15 0
12 Table Spoons ..	1 13 0	2 4 0	2 10 0	2 15 0
12 Dessert Forks ..	1 4 0	1 12 0	1 15 0	1 17 0
12 Dessert Spoons ..	1 4 0	1 12 0	1 15 0	1 17 0
12 Tea Spoons ..	0 16 0	1 2 0	1 5 0	1 7 0
6 Egg Spoons, gilt bowls	0 10 0	0 13 0	0 15 0	0 15 0
2 Sauce Ladles ..	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 9 0	0 9 0
1 Gravy Spoon ..	0 6 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 12 0
2 Salt Spoons, gilt bowls	0 3 4	0 4 6	0 5 0	0 5 0
1 Mustard Spoon, gilt bowl	0 1 8	0 2 8	0 2 6	0 2 6
1 Pair of Sugar Tongs ..	0 2 6	0 3 6	0 4 0	0 4 6
1 Pair of Fish Carvers ..	1 4 0	1 7 6	1 10 0	1 12 0
1 Butter Knife ..	0 2 6	0 5 6	0 6 0	0 7 0
1 Soup Ladle ..	0 10 0	0 17 0	0 17 0	0 1 0
1 Sugar Sifter ..	0 3 3	0 4 6	0 5 0	0 5 6
Total ..	9 19 9	13 10 3	14 19 6	16 4 0

Any article to be had singly at the same prices. An oak chest to contain the above, and a relative number of knives, &c., 2l. 15s. Tea and coffee sets, dish covers, and corner dishes, cruet and liqueur frames, &c., at proportionate prices. All kinds of replating done by the patent process.

CUTLERY, Warranted.—The most varied Assortment of TABLE CUTLERY in the world, all warranted, is on sale at WILLIAM S. BURTON'S, at prices that are remunerative only because of the largeness of the sales.

	Table Knives per Dozen.	Dessert Knives per Dozen.	Carvers per Pair.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
34-inch ivory handles	12 6	10 0	4 3
34-inch fine ivory handles	15 0	11 6	4 3
18-inch ivory balance handles	18 0	14 0	4 6
4-inch fine ivory handles	24 0	17 0	7 3
4-inch finest African ivory handles ..	32 0	26 0	11 0
Ditto, with silver ferules	40 0	32 0	12 6
Ditto, carved handles, silver ferules	50 0	43 0	17 6
Nickel elect. silver hdl's, any pattn.	25 0	19 0	7 6
Silver handles of any pattern	84 0	54 0	21 0

	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
White bone handles	11 0	8 6	2 6
Ditto balance handles	21 0	17 0	4 6
Black horn rimmed shoulders	17 0	14 0	4 0
Ditto very strong riveted handles ..	12 0	9 0	3 0

The largest stock in existence of plated dessert knives and forks, in cases and otherwise, and of the new plated fish carvers.

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HATS 6s. EACH.
MUMMERY BROTHERS,
423, OXFORD-STREET.

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Continually Patronised and Strongly Recommended by H. Coatham, Esq., Bristol; Rev. H. Gale, Treborough; Rev. W. Gale, Rythe Rectory; Rev. E. H. Harris, Portland, U.S.; Rev. S. Johnson, Salem, U.S.; Rev. W. Graham, Glasgow; Rev. C. Thomson, Walker, near Newcastle.

IMPORTANT REDUCTIONS IN THE PRICE OF THE PSALMIST.

EDITED BY VINCENT NOVELLO.

A COLLECTION OF

400 PSALM AND HYMN TUNES,

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The Trustees have the pleasure of announcing that they have reduced the prices of the various Editions of this well-known Work, and that the change took place on the 1st of May last.

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In cloth, sprinkled edges, reduced from 6s. 0d. to 3s. 6d.
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HOLMAN HUNT'S GREAT PICTURE, "The FINDING of the SAVIOUR in the TEMPLE," commenced in Jerusalem in 1854, is NOW on VIEW at the GERMAN GALLERY, 168, New Bond-street. Admission, 1s.

SPECIAL AND URGENT

CHRISTIAN BLIND RELIEF SOCIETY.

INSTITUTED 1843.

There is great distress among the poor blind—greater than any could believe, who have not the opportunity of visiting them at their homes. The Committee of the above Society earnestly solicit AID from the benevolent to enable them to relieve the sufferings of this much-afflicted class. The benefits of the Society are open to all distressed blind people of good moral character. Subscriptions or donations will be received by the London and Westminster Bank and its branches; by H. E. Gurney, Esq. (Overend, Gurney, and Co.), Lombard-street; or by John Gurney Fry, Esq., 14, St. Helen's-place, Bishopsgate; or by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Cox), 1, 10, Borough-road, S. This Society has no salaried officers; the whole of the money contributed, except the lowest possible sum for expenses, is distributed by the members of the Committee among the aged sick and destitute blind. See article in the "Times" of the 22nd of January, relative to the management of benevolent societies. Subscriptions or Donations will be acknowledged in the "Times" and other newspapers.

MINISTERS' REGISTRY, 27, Paternoster-row.—A REGISTER for SABBATH SUPPLIES is kept as above. A small fee charged on Entry. Country Ministers coming to town can learn of Vacancies as they occur.

Address, Ward and Co., 27, Paternoster-row.

THE FAREWELL DEMONSTRATION commemorative of the Departure of the THOUSAND NONCONFORMISTS and others for the NEW COLONY of ALBERTLAND, NEW ZEALAND, will take place at the end of May, in the following order:—

On TUESDAY EVENING, May 27, a VALEDICTORY SERVICE will be held at the Rev. C. H. SPURGEON'S TABERNACLE, when Addresses will be delivered by various Ministers. 1. To the Minister elect going out with the thousand. 2. The response of the Minister elect. 3. Words of counsel to the intending Settlers. 4. An Address to those remaining behind. 5. A discourse on Christian Colonisation. 6. An exhortation to the thousand as to their dealings with the Native Races.

On THURSDAY MORNING, May 29, the EMBARKATION will take place from the East India Docks, between Twelve and Two o'clock. Extensive preparations are being made for the convenience of the public on the occasion.

Among the gentlemen expected to take part in these gatherings are the Revs. C. H. Spurgeon, W. Landels, Hon. A. Kinaird, M.P., E. Ball, Esq., M.P., Harper Twelvetrees, Esq., Washington Wilks, Esq., and other Gentlemen, whose names will be announced shortly.

Admission to the Docks, 6d. each; Reserved Places, 2s.

Applications for Tickets to be addressed to 293, City-road.

NOTICE.—EMIGRANTS to ALBERTLAND should call at

E. J. MONNERY'S COLONIAL OUTFITTING WAREHOUSE, 165, Fenchurch-street, E.C., for the Emigration Price Current (to be had free, or per post by enclosing a stamp). It contains Lists for all Classes, with prices of every requisite for the Voyage, and the Colonies.

Berths and Cabins fitted at the shortest notice.

Bedding and Mess Utensils complete from 21s. to 50s.

(See List.)

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In 1851 the Income was	£21,534
In 1854 the Income rose to	36,605
In 1857	53,503
In 1861	68,106

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In 1851 the Accumulated Fund was	£26,812
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Purchasers have thus the opportunity of hearing, side by side, Pianofortes by every recognised Maker, and of forming a far more correct judgment of their various merits than can possibly be obtained by visiting the different factories, the acoustic properties of which necessarily differ greatly, and frequently deceive the ear even of the most skilful.

The superiority of tone of ALEXANDRE'S HARMONIUMS is too well established to need any comment. An immense Assortment may be seen, ranging in price from Five to Eighty-five Guineas, suitable to the School-room, Church, or Drawing-room.

Any Instrument may be exchanged within six months of the date of purchase, should it fail to give entire satisfaction.

AN IMMENSE STOCK OF SECOND-HAND PIANOFORTES AND HARMONIUMS.

CHAPPELL'S FOREIGN PIANINO:

A very elegant Pianoforte, of a small size, but with the Full Compass, Check Action, and Perfect Touch, admirably adapted to Small Rooms, Yachts, Boudoirs, &c. Excellent for keeping in Tune, and the cheapest Pianoforte with Check Action yet made.

Price TWENTY-FIVE GUINEAS,

Either in Rosewood or Walnut. Height, three feet four inches.

CHAPPELL'S ENGLISH MODEL COTTAGE PIANOFORTE.

To Amateurs preferring the pure English tone of the Broadwood and Collard quality, the English Model will be found the most perfectly satisfactory instrument at a moderate price. The action is of the same simple description as the above maker's, and therefore especially adapted to the country, where the more complicated actions are objectionable to the tuners.

In elegant Rosewood Case, with full fret, similar in all respects to other instruments at Fifty Guineas, Price THIRTY-FIVE GUINEAS.

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Price FIFTY GUINEAS; or, in handsome Walnut, SIXTY GUINEAS.

This instrument has (unlike other Cottage Pianofortes) Three Strings, and the fullest Grand Compass of Seven octaves. It is strengthened by every possible means to endure the greatest amount of wear, and to stand in any climate. The workmanship is of the best description, the tone is round, full, and rich, and the power equal to that of a Richord Grand. The Case is of the most elegant description, in Rosewood, the touch elastic, and the repetition very rapid. No Pianoforte, in all respects comparable, has hitherto been made in England at the same price. Every instrument will be warranted, and (if desired) exchanged within twelve months of the purchase.

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